

Conversion of Manual Exchanges

Annexure

*25 DR. SARADISH ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing.

(a) the total number of manual exchanges in the country at the end of 1981 (State-wise);

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to make these exchanges as automatic ones;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof: and

(d) the progress so far made in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) A statement indicating the number of manual exchanges in the country as on 31-3-81 State-wise is at annexure-I.

(b) to (d). The implications of replacement of all manual local exchanges by automatic exchanges has been considered. Automatic telephone exchange equipment and financial resources are not adequate to implement this in the Sixth Plan. The programme in the Sixth Plan for such replacement based on the resources likely to be available, will give priority to automatisa-tion of revenue district headquarters and important business centres. Priority will also be given to manual systems exceeding 1500 lines capacity. By 31-3-1981, the proportion of automatic exchange lines in the country had risen to 85% of the total. Out of 391 district headquarters, 240 had already been automatised as on that date.

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Manual Exchange
1.	Andhra Pradesh	129
2.	Assam	27
3.	Bihar	65
4.	Gujarat	149
5.	Haryana	34
6.	Himachal Pradesh	23
7.	J & K	16
8.	Karnataka	132
9.	Kerala	35
10.	Madhya Pradesh	86
11.	Maharashtra	166
12.	Manipur	1
13.	Meghalaya	3
14.	Nagaland	2
15.	Orissa	47
16.	Punjab	57
17.	Rajasthan	119
18.	Sikkim	2
19.	Tamilnadu	73
20.	Tripura	5
21.	U. P.	121
22.	West Bengal	49
23.	Union Territories	7
Total :		1348

DR. SARADISH ROY : It has been stated in the statement that automatic telephone exchange equipment and financial resources are not adequate to automatise all the manual exchanges during the 6th Plan, and that priority for this will be given to the district headquarters and important business centres. Out of 391 district headquarters, only 240 have already got automatic exchanges. Will the rest of the district headquarters have automatic exchanges during the 6th Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : It is specifically mentioned in the answer that during the 6th Plan period, all is not possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us know what is possible ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Whatever is possible has been given in the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever is possible is given in the answer ; whatever is not possible has not been given in the answer.

DR. SARADISH ROY : Even the manual exchanges due to shortage of supply of spare parts are not working properly. What arrangements have been made for supply of spare parts to these manual exchanges ? Is there any programme of P&T Department to import some of the spare parts from foreign countries ? If so, spare parts of how much amount are proposed to be imported from outside ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN) : Sir, this is an entirely different question. As far as the spare-parts of the manual exchanges are concerned, there is no question of import, because manual exchanges are being manufactured only by us and the spare-parts have got to be supplied by us. Steps have been taken and the problem of spare-parts for the manual exchanges has practically been worked out and there is no difficulty as far as the spare-parts are concerned.

I would also like to complete the answer to the earlier question he has put.

Added on to this, as was stated in our answer, there are 8,000 Exchan-

ges in total in our country, of which 1,340 are manual exchanges. Of the district headquarters, 151 are still working with manual exchanges. Our Plan is that by the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan, we will be able to automatise all the exchanges in the district headquarters and also all the exchanges beyond 1,500 connections, which are not district headquarters, which would come to about 20 exchanges and this will cover practically all the district headquarters and all the important areas where the manual exchanges are functioning. All this will be done before 1985.

DR. SARADISH ROY : Sir, the answer is given like this. The programme in the Sixth Plan for such requirements based on the resources likely to be available will give priority to automation of revenue district headquarters....

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : This is what I said. I was only more specific. All the district headquarters will be covered and outside the district headquarters manual exchanges, which have got more than 1,500 connections will also be covered. This is what I said.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir according to the reply given, some seventeen manual exchanges are working in the Jammu and Kashmir State. Out of these, I believe, only two are in the Ladakh region i.e. Leh and Kargil. These two districts are the most sensitive border districts in the whole of the country and the temperature there goes down to minus 20 to 25 degrees C. during winter and it is very difficult for the operators to work for 24 hours. It is practically not possible. In view of this and in view of the sensitive nature of the district, will the Government consider to convert these two exchanges into automatic exchanges on a priority basis ? If so, by what time ?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN : Sir, we are not only converting these two, but we are also thinking of bringing in a containerised electronic exchange in the area at the earliest.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE : Sir, Idukki constituency in Kerala is very backward. In view of that will the Minister concerned make efforts to change the manual exchange in Idukki headquarters to an automatic exchange ?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : In Kerala, the automation is 91% and this district will also be covered.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE : Sir, Idukki is a backward district and I would like the Minister to reply.

SHRI C.M. STEPHEN : Although my friend has stepped into my shoe as far as that constituency is concerned, I am still keeping my interest there. In Idukki, there are altogether 34 exchanges, of which 80% are automatised already.

Shortage of Trained Legislative Draftsmen

*26. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of trained legislative draftsmen in India;

(b) whether any steps have been taken in this connection and if so, the details; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On the average 3 to 5 officers from the States are given training (2 or 3 in English and 1 or 2 in Hindi) in legislative drafting in the Legislative Department every year. Officers from the Centre and the States are also being deputed for training courses abroad. On the average about 2 officers are deputed every year. A proposal for establishing an Institute for training in legislative drafting is under consideration in consultation with the State Governments.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : His question arises because of the observations made by the Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court about bad and clumsy drafting in the Bills and Acts. It is because of such drafting—not of private Bills, of course I agree—that we get inconsistent judgements; and the Government feels that Judges are not following the line or policy of the Government.

The answer mentions that we are training only three officers in the entire country in a year, in this particular line. I would, therefore, like to ask the Hon. Minister in part (a) of my question: whether it is not a fact that the number of senior and experienced draftsmen who can give training to a beginner or junior is fast dwindling and the few senior draftsmen who are available are so much swamped with regular work that they are unable to spare sufficient time for training the juniors or Attaches, as a result of which the drafting had been considerably affected.

Part (b) of my question is : whether any proposal has been made by the Government of Gujarat in July 1981 in this connection, requesting the Government of India to start a programme or school in connection with this legal drafting.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: My Hon. friend has said that because of sometimes bad drafting, the Judges