

the electro-mechanical exchanges in the following respects:—

- (i) better reliability and performance.
- (ii) Network economics.
- (iii) Lesser building space requirement.
- (iv) better routing capability.
- (v) reduction in maintenance and installation efforts.
- (vi) capability for special subscriber facilities (from local exchanges).

(c) The estimated cost of replacing Tis-Hazari exchange works out to about Rs. 5 crores.

The replacement cost of Cannaught Place and Secretariat exchanges is being worked out.

The equipment required will be imported.

(d) The replacement equipment will not give additional capacity for new connections. However, equipment has been planned over and above the replacement requirement to enable new connections to be provided progressively to the persons on the waiting list in the above areas.

Use of old Coal based Fertilizer Plant at Sindri

*258. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 60 coke ovens only 30 ovens are going to be renovated in the Sindri Fertiliser Plant at present, if so, reasons for this partial renovation;

(b) whether he is aware that the old coal based fertiliser plant has all the infrastructure to take rebirth as a full fledged coal based chemical factory in the coalfield to meet the national need and as well as to absorb gainfully the manpower now presented as surplus; and

(c) if so, facts in details and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The main reason for partial renovation of the Coke ovens is due to fact that the existing equipment and services for handling of coal and coke gas cleaning and by-product section have become too old to be operated at original rated capacity. At present, the auxiliary equipment and services can be utilised at 50 per cent load.

(b) and (c). The old fertilizer plant at Sindri adopted the semi-water gas technology which is based on the gasification of the Coke. This technology is no longer viable and as such equipments of the old plant cannot be utilised for the installation of a chemical plant based on modern technology of direct gasification of coal.

Equipment for Checking Misuse of Telephones and over Billing

*260. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI D. M. PUTTE
GOWDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to fix up the automatic meter observation equipment for individual lines in checking misuse of telephones and over billing;

(b) if so, whether the same will be installed at telephone exchanges and not at subscriber's residences;

(c) if so, the reasons why the same will not be installed at subscriber's residences;

(d) whether a task force has been set up to carry out various measures to strengthen the external plant network of the telephone systems on a time bound programme; and

(e) if so, details thereof and how far it would be effective in improving the telephone services?