

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state how much gas is allocated to Namrup-3, how much of the gas is allocable for generation of power and out of the total gas used for the purposes of Namrup and power generation will there still be some surplus gas left and, if so, what would be the amount of surplus gas?

The Hon. Minister also mentioned the rate. I would like to know whether the rate being charged from the Assam State Electricity Board is equivalent to the coal consumption rate in terms of calorific value of energy supplied by a unit of coal and a unit of gas.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: So far as Namrup is concerned, Phase-I of the fertiliser plant in Namrup had a total requirement of 0.223 million cubic metres per day and this is being supplied to them. Even to Phase No. 2, it is supplied in the same fashion; if my hon. friend is interested in the figure, it would be 0.846 million cubic metres per day. So far as Phase No. 3 is concerned, it requires a firm commitment of availability of gas to the extent of 1.17 million cubic metres per day and it has already been made. This is the position so far as supply of gas commitments and the gas that is already supplied to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Namrup are concerned.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: What about Phase No. 3?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I have said that—1.17 million cubic metres per day.

The other part of the question that my hon. friend has asked me is about coal and the price with reference to that. I will be able to lay this on the Table of the House shortly because I do not have the information with reference to that.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: What will remain after the supply is made to the Electricity Board? How much more gas will still be surplus and be flared up? I wanted to know that.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: On the question of surplus, if the gas that we

have already allocated is lifted, then there would not be the question of flaring up at all. About the little bit that we have to flare up, we have already conceived of petro-chemical complex which we have already started with ground work there.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Still you will have some flaring up. You cannot stop it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I follow. My hon. friend is aware—because he had headed this Ministry—that some gas will have necessarily to be flared up for the purpose of taking out the crude; otherwise, you cannot go on; then the crude production will go down.

New Telephone Factories

*313. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up three new telephone factories;

(b) if so, the sites chosen for the purpose, the nature of equipment proposed to be produced and the schedule drawn for the purpose; and

(c) how far these will go in solving the demand for telephones in the country and to ease the situation?

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

Statement

(a and (b) The approved plans for the expansion of manufacturing facilities for telephone exchange switching equipment consists of the following:

- (i) Setting up of two new factories each with a capacity of 5 lakh lines per annum for manufacture of Digital Electronic (local) Switching Equipment; and

- (ii) Expanding the capacity of the Palghat unit of ITI from 10,000 lines to 1.5 lakh lines of Electronic Trunk Automatic Exchanges, Rural and Private Automatic Branch Exchange Equipment.

Regarding first factory of (i) above, M/s. Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) have entered into collaboration with M/s. CIT Alcatel, a French firm, for setting up manufacturing capacity for 5 lakh lines per annum of Digital Electronic Exchange Equipment at Gonda in Uttar Pradesh. Construction of the factory building is expected to commence during 1983-84. As far as the second such factory is concerned, the decision on its location has not yet been taken. Global Tenders received for collaborative manufacture are under evaluation.

The Palghat unit of ITI is proposed to be expanded for manufacture of Digital Electronic Trunk Automatic Exchanges with foreign collaboration as well as Rural and Private Automatic Branch Exchanges. Tenders and a proposal received in regard to the trunk automatic exchanges are under evaluation.

(c) After all the three factories go into capacity production towards the end of the Seventh Five year Plan, it is expected that the gap between the demand and supply of telephones in the country will be substantially reduced if not eliminated.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: On August 14 there was a news item in the *Statesman*, Calcutta, that Mr. S. K. Ghosh, Secretary, Union Ministry of Communications, told a Press Conference that three new factories, coming up in different parts of the country, including Bangalore, Rae Bareilly and Ooty would produce annually 1.2 million telephone lines along with the modern digital electronic exchange lines and spares and equipment in the next few years and that by the Seventh Five-Year Plan the demand would be fully met and there would be no shortage. But the Minister in his reply has said:

"Setting up of two new factories each with a capacity of five lakh lines per annum for manufacture of Digital Electronic (local) Switching Equipment."

Based on this, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the annual demand for telephone lines and what is the total supply made by the present installed capacity in the country, what is the total installed capacity for manufacture of telephone lines and what is the percentage of capacity utilisation, and whether as Mr. Ghosh has said, there will be three sophisticated digital electronic exchanges in the country. If, according to the Minister's reply, two electronic exchanges will be coming up, what will be the other site—one site has already been decided; what will be the other site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I am able to give him the figure. The total waiting list as in 1982 is 6 lakhs.

The second question the hon. Member put is about the installed capacity. At present there are two factories which are producing the switching equipments. One is at Bangalore having a capacity of 1.5 lakhs which produces stronger lines of 1.5 lakhs per annum. In Bangalore there is another unit under ITI which produces 60,000 cross bar lines per year. And the factory at Rae Bareilly will be starting production very soon.

The third part of the question is about the location of the second factory of the digital electronic switching equipment in the country. The site selection committee has given its report and it is under examination of the Government.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: I want to know from the Minister categorically whether the site selection committee and Planning Promotion Department of the DG. P & T has analysed in detail the site selection and they have given a report to

the Government in 1977-78 that in Orissa, Bhubaneswar is one of the suitable sites or the backward area of Western Orissa like Kalahandi or Bholangir. I want to know whether they will be considered. At the time of deciding the location of the telephone exchange industry because backwardness is one of the criteria for location of the telephone exchange industry.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Not only the backwardness but there are many other factors which are to be taken into consideration while deciding the site of a particular factory and the site selection committee has gone into all these aspects and they have submitted their report which is under examination and at present I am not in a position to say which site will be selected.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The question is not only of setting up new factories but also of expanding the existing capacity. I would like to ask him whether his Government has received representations including some letters from me, regarding the possibilities of expansion of the first PTF unit which was set up in this country and which is located in Srinagar in Kashmir which is certainly a backward area industrially speaking. That factory even to-day after so many years is employing less than 150 workers. And they are capable of producing modern equipment such as the one they are going to produce with French collaboration now. Even the management says that because of the rarefied atmosphere which is relatively dust-free, it is very good for making this type of electronic equipment and the workers are experienced and quite skilled. Would he consider—Mr. Makwana, would your Government consider—at least allotting a part of this new production target or expansion which you are going to have, to this factory so that some people can get jobs in Kashmir?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is no question of existing telephone switching equipment factory in Kashmir. At present it produces coil cords and

telephone instruments in the factory which is situated there. That will be expanded. So far as the digital electronic factory is concerned, one is already decided—to have it in Gonda and the other is under consideration.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am not talking of a new factory. I am talking of expanding the existing one.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: That factory is not manufacturing switching equipment. But, Sir, whatever it produces, we are expanding.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Sir, on a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is a Marxist. He uses the word term 'Sir J. C. GHOSH.' What is this Sir J. C. Ghosh?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I have not put it. Not me, they should charge them.

Question No. 314.

Committee on Synthetic Oil Project

*314. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by the Sir J. C. Ghosh Committee on synthetic oil project;

(b) who composed its personnel;

(c) reasons why the Committee's recommendations were not implemented;

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the whole thing; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.