

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchange in Anakapalli-Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh

1287. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONTHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert co-exist telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to convert present co-axial exchange into electronic exchange in 'Anakapalli-Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to convert in phases the Life Expired and worn out Electromechanical exchanges into electronic exchanges.

(b) The Electromechanical exchange at Anakapalli (Vishakapatnam District) is planned to be converted into Electronic Exchange.

(c) A 1500 line Remote Line Unit type of Electronic exchange has already been allotted for Anakapalli. Construction of the building to accommodate the electronic exchange is being taken up. An expansion of the electronic exchange from 1500 lines to 2000 lines has also been planned.

Indo-Sri Lanka Relations

1288. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and India have shown signs of strain following the armed conflicts between LTTE and Sri Lankan Army in June last; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the relations between the two

countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1289. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras set up in the country State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to revitalise these Krishi Vigyan Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The main objectives of Krishi Vigyan Kendras are:-

(i) Demonstration of latest agricultural technologies relevant to the district in which it is located;

(ii) Vocational training of farmers, farm women, young farmers, school drop-outs and field level extension functionaries; and

(iii) Conducting on-farm/operational research.

(b) State-wise number is given in the attached Statement

(c) (i) Additional funds are provided for infrastructural developments wherever necessary;

(ii) First-line demonstration programmes are supported with additional resources for quality demonstrations farmers fields;

(iii) The vocational training programmes have been enlarged especially for farm women and young farmers;