

(2) A 600 lines expansion of Sangli exchange from 2100 to 2700 lines had been planned in the 1977-78 supply programme of I.T.I. However, in view of urgency, 300 lines were diverted from elsewhere to Sangli in 1976-77 and the exchange expanded to 2400 lines. The remaining 300 lines could not be supplied by I.T.I. in 1977-78 due to heavy slippages in production arising from labour problems and serious power-cuts at Bangalore and Rae Bareilly. These 300 lines are to be supplied during the current financial year and are likely to be commissioned in 1979.

(3) The Government is keen to undertake expansion of Telecommunications facilities on an equitable basis in all areas of the country. For this purpose, steps are being taken to augment production-capacity which only can ensure adequate supplies at all the stations.

(4) It will, thus, be seen that there has been no diversion of equipment from Sangli. It is the other way around that to meet the urgent requirements, 300 lines equipment was diverted to Sangli from elsewhere in 1976-77.

Policy re: New Telephone Connections

462. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared any policy in respect of issuing new telephone connections to those who have applied after 31-3-1977; and

(b) if so, the number of applications pending in O.Y.T. and general pool in the District of Bharoch in Gujarat State before 31-3-1977 and afterward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of applications pending as on 16-12-78 are as follows:—

	Before 31-3-77	After 31-3-77
O.Y.T.	1	27
General	12	198

Sale of American Design Nuclear Plant to China by France

*463. SHRI A. ASOKA RAJ:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the local dailies of the 27th November, 1978 regarding U.S. permission given to French Government to sell an American designed nuclear plant to China; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to it?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. It is Government's understanding that the question of clearance by the U.S. authorities is under consideration.

(b) Government's views on the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy and on the necessity to ensure that any safeguards to be applied should be uniform and non-discriminatory, applicable to nuclear and non-nuclear weapons States, are well-known.

Applications pending for New Telephone Connections

*464. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing:—

(a) the number of applicants registered in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and