

news items appeared both here and abroad that the Agni was not an entirely indigenous effort in the sense that we got help from West Germany as well as the United States and I think that there was a report also about something which an opposition member had said, but I am not at this moment sure of that. But I did see reports in foreign papers also. I was asked this question when I went abroad and I assured them that this was our own effort, it is our own effort, it is our own technology and we are proud of the work done by our scientists. Nothing can detract us from this achievement and the West German Government, I understand, has denied what has appeared in that section of Press which I referred to earlier. They have denied that West Germany has contributed for the development of the technology for Agni.

There was a news item which said that Dr. Kalam, the Director of DRDL who is leading the team which developed Agni had picked up his knowledge in this area in the United States, when he went there for a few months. It so happened that he went there for a few months 25 years ago! Since then rocket technology has made enormous advances and Dr. Kalam and his group have done remarkably good work in this area and I would like to convey the congratulations of the House of them.

On the cost question, the total expenditure sanctioned for this project is about Rs. 35 crores. The technology demonstrator Agni has costed about Rs. 3 crores.

STD facility in Rajasthan

*90. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of places connected with STD facilities in Rajasthan State is far less as compared to other States keeping in view its population and area;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider connecting more places in Ra-

jasthan with STD facilities; and

(c) if so, the names of such places, and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir. The following priorities are adopted for providing STD facility:

- (i) State capitals to Delhi;
- (ii) District Headquarters to respective State capitals;
- (iii) Telephone exchanges with a capacity of 1000 lines and above, as on 31.3.1985; and
- (iv) Other routes justified by traffic subject to feasibility.

In respect of Rajasthan the State capital Jaipur is already linked to Delhi on STD

Out of the total 27 District Headquarters in Rajasthan, 16 have been provided with STD facility. The remaining 11 District Headquarters are planned to be connected by March, 1990.

The status of STD facility in Rajasthan is comparatively better than many other States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Sawaimadhopur and Tonk are proposed to be provided with STD facility.

[Translation]

SHRI. VISHNU MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the hon. Minister.

[English]

Whether the number of places connected with STD facilities in Rajasthan State is far less as compared to other States keeping in view its population and area?

[Translation]

The hon. Minister has said in his answer;

[English]

The Status of STD facility in Rajasthan is comparatively better than in many other States.

[Translation]

Sir, S.T.D. facilities are available in as many as 671 places in Rajasthan. According to the norms prescribed for Rajasthan, the second largest State of the country, district headquarters will be connected with S.T.D. facilities by 1990 and as regards the last criterion, viz.

[English]

Other routes justified by traffic subject to feasibility.

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which of the routes in Rajasthan are justified?

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, my answer to the question that the status of STD facility in Rajasthan is comparatively better than many other States is on the basis of the Seventh Plan targets. The Seventh Plan target is to give STD facility to all District headquarters. In Rajasthan so far, we would provide STD to 18 places. Out of the 18 places, we have given STD facility to two non District HQ the Mandore and Beawar. And 11 District headquarters will be provided

with facility before the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The two places to which we have provided STD is on the basis of the criteria adopted by the Department, i.e. where one thousand line capacity is there. Therefore, when we compare Rajasthan with other States, it is comparatively better than many other States.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that apart from district headquarters, which are the

[English]

Other routes justified by traffic subject of feasibility?

[Translation]

Which of the cities of Rajasthan having telephone exchanges with one thousand line capacity, are proposed to be connected with STD.

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, wherever we have achieved 1,000 lines capacity, we have provided STD facility. We will provide STD facility wherever we cross 1,000 lines capacity.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no S.T.D. facility is so far available in the border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, which are very important from the security point of view. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the time by when S.T.D. facilities will be provided in these two districts?

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, Barmer district is one of the districts identified by the Ministry of Communication as on IDN District in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Barmer district is to be connected with STD facility.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: What about Jaisalmer?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: That will also be given before 31st March 1990.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Jammu is to be linked with Jaipur.

[*English*]

Opening of Post Offices in Madhubani and Darbhanga Districts

*93. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in the Madhubani and Darbhanga district of Bihar in the last five years; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to open new post offices in these districts in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The number of post offices opened in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts in the last five years (Seventh Plan) is as follows:

<i>Plan Year</i>	<i>No of new post offices opened</i>	
	<i>Madhubani</i>	<i>Darbhanga</i>
1985-86	-	-
1986-87	-	-
1987-88	-	1
1988-89	-	-
1989-90 (upto 1.7.1989)	6	6
Total	6	7