

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 13, 1985/Sravana 22, 1907  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

\*304. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any perspective  
plan to modernise the telephone exchanges  
in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together  
with the total cost involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) Perspective plan for the country is  
prepared by the Department. Similar plan  
at the state level is prepared by the  
Telecom. Circles. Perspective plan for  
Kerala State has been prepared upto 2001  
A.D.

(b) It is planned that about 600 Tele-  
phone Exchanges with a total equipped  
capacity of 710,000 lines would be available  
by Year 2001 A.D. subject to availability  
of resources. With the prevailing cost  
per line, the cost of the above capacity  
telephone equipment is approximately Rs.  
350 crores.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : I  
am happy to know that a perspective plan  
for Kerala State has been prepared upto  
2001 A.D.

I want to know how much amount is  
going to be spent during the Seventh Plan  
and the names of the places where exchanges  
will be modernised.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The  
final figures regarding allocations to our  
Department for the Seventh Five Year Plan  
are not yet available and, therefore, the  
question asked by the hon. Member cannot  
be replied. The moment we receive the  
final indication from the Planning Commis-  
sion we will do our planning accordingly.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : I  
want to know whether the Government  
will introduce STD facilities in Kerala for  
foreign countries, especially for the Gulf  
countries.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : At  
present there are three exchanges in Kerala  
which receive international calls for for-  
ward transmission. They are not yet on  
STD but they are working quite efficiently.  
The Overseas Communications Services  
development plans for the Seventh Plan  
envisage automatising with the STD of  
the three exchanges in Kerala.

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :  
Which are the three Exchanges ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI AMITABH BACACHAN: I would  
like to know from the hon. Minister  
whether there was a plan to put up a  
modern electronic telephone exchange in  
Allahabad where an old and outmoded  
equipment is working now and whether it  
has been withdrawn.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Kerala  
is far away from Allahabad.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, we do not  
mind giving an electronic exchange to  
Allahabad.....

MR. SPEAKER : Agreed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minis-  
ter has said that there is a perspective  
plan for Kerala. I would like to know

whether it is not a fact that the perspective plan prepared by the Telecom. Circle, Kerala could not be implemented due to lack of equipment because in sanctioning the equipments, the consideration seems to be other than technical and viability and also the waiting list. Is it not a fact that the number of people in the waiting list is the maximum in Kerala? Is it also not a fact that among the States it is Kerala that receives the largest number of international calls? In view of all these, will the Minister reconsider his priorities and allot necessary equipments to match with the perspective plan submitted by the Telecom. Circle, Kerala?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Kerala is much better served than many other States in the country—which shows that we give due importance to the needs of Kerala and we will continue to do so.

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** That is not the point. What about the waiting list?

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Mr. Speaker.....

**MR. SPEAKER :** If this question is not concerning Kerala or irrelevant I will not allow.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not relate to my constituency. It is a small question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** No question of small or big

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that an additional capacity of 7,10,000 lines will be created with the installation of 600 new exchanges during the next 10 to 15 years, but he has added "subject to availability". When there was the need for Rs. 350 crores.....

**MR. SPEAKER :** You name anything which is available without money.

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :** I want to say that the modern communication system has a big role in the development of the country. If funds are not available through plan outlay, resources can be mobilised through public equity

or by issuing Public Bonds. When it has been assessed that Rs. 350 crores are needed, then there should be no difficulty in mobilising the funds. I want to know what are the suggestions of the hon. Minister in this regard?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was announced during the last Budget Session that Special Bonds would be issued for Telecommunications and now we are waiting for the issuance of these Bonds. However, the way we have formulated the Seventh Five Year Plan, if resources for that are not made available, it will not be possible to fully implement the perspective plan formulated by us.

[English]

#### Shifting of Industries from congested Urban Areas

\*305. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries which have taken advantage of the concessions given in the budget of 1983 for shifting out from congested urban areas on environmental grounds ; and

(b) what other steps are being taken to make industries shift from congested urban areas ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) :** (a) This information is not maintained by Ministry of Industry.

(b) With a view to ensure development of 'No Industry Districts' and backward areas, backward districts in the country were reclassified in 1983 into three categories depending upon the level of backwardness and incentives at different rates have been prescribed for setting up units in such Districts. Further MRTP/FERA companies are permitted to set up industrial undertakings in the notified backward Districts even in Non-Appendix-1 industries which are not reserved for small scale sector, with a reduced export obligation.

**SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Sir, in my question the emphasis and focus is on