

new units, referred to by the hon. Minister just now, is being misused to some extent. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a city like Gorakhpur which has not yet crossed the population of 5 lakhs. You have not given concessions in these places which could attract entrepreneurs for setting up new units and the Government are also not setting up their own new units at such places. The entrepreneurs are not prepared to go to the places where you are giving facilities because those places are not linked by rail, road or other modes of transport. Will the hon. Minister reconsider it and try to lay down a new policy ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :

The whole problem is that we want a balanced industrial development of all the regions. We have to see that the areas which are not linked by rail or road do not remain cut off forever. It is with this end in view that this scheme has been made particularly attractive for them and more facilities have been given to such areas.

So far as the question of review and reconsideration is concerned, it has already been stated in this House that an Inter-Ministry Committee has been constituted which is reviewing the cases of backward areas and it is hoped that the committee would submit its report to the Government by December.

[English]

Telecommunication Training Centres

***306. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:**
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up some telecommunication training centres in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of training centres that have been set up in different States and Union Territories ;

(c) whether there is a need to provide adequate training to the telecommunication personnel in the country ; and

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken in the current financial year for that purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of training centres State-wise is given in the statement below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps are proposed to be taken during the current year in this direction :—

- (i) improving the training facilities at the training centres e.g. improvement of faculty, addition of equipments required for revised training syllabii. etc.
- (ii) implementation and development of job-oriented modular courses.
- (iii) conducting seminars and courses including in areas of new technologies.
- (iv) exposure of the selected technical personnel to other telecom. administrations including training in high technology areas abroad.

Statement

State-wise break up of Training Centres.

Andhra Pradesh	3
Bihar	1
Gujarat	3
Delhi	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Kerala	2
Karnataka	4
Madhya Pradesh	2 (includes T.T.C. Jabalpur)
Maharashtra	6 (one of them has since been ordered to be closed).
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Punjab	2
(North West Circle)	
Assam	1
(North East Circle)	

Uttar Pradesh	4 (includes ALTTC Ghaziabad).
Tamil Nadu	3
West Bengal	3

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : In the Seventh Plan, Government have a proposal for upgradation of the telecommunication system and the Government are going to have electronic systems. Is the hon. Minister aware of the reports regarding the new electronic exchanges not functioning satisfactorily? Is this on account of untrained personnel manning the exchanges? Whenever exchanges are being replaced with the electronic exchanges, are the personnel being trained in time? Are the centres provided in the country sufficient to provide requisite training?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that we are inducting latest technology in our telecommunication system and electronic and digital exchanges and transmission systems are being introduced. Keeping in view all these factors, we are going to strengthen our training facilities considerably. For example, whenever we induct a new electronic system or any other high technology system, we get our people trained at the factory of the suppliers. Then, we have a very well organised Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre at Ghaziabad, where excellent facilities exist for giving training to people, who will install and operate this high technology exchanges in the respective places. We are conscious that with the greater induction of high technology, our training facilities have to be increased and we are making plans that simultaneously with the induction of high technology, our training facilities should be augmented, and I greatly appreciate the concern and the views expressed by hon. Member and I can assure her and the House that we are very much conscious of the need for training in this respect and we will do all we can do in this regard.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we are able to train technical personnel of outside countries like developing countries at our Centre at Ghaziabad,

and what is the role of the International Communication Centre in this.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We have a number of schemes for sending our technical people abroad. The International Telecommunication Union has a number of programmes in which our experts participate. We do train telecommunication personnel of other countries at ALTTC.

As I said earlier, whenever we induct a new exchange or a new system, we send our people to the manufacturers' factories to acquaint themselves with the working of the system. In the last years, we have trained 30,000 persons, of which 2000 were trained at the Advanced Level Telecommunication Training Centre at Ghaziabad.

Once again, I assure the House that we are very much conscious of this and we are expanding our training capacities tremendously not only in the area of high technology alone, but we feel that every single person working in our department, whether a line man or a telephone operator, should be trained. We have training programmes at all levels and we want to step up this programme considerably in the years to come.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that while selecting candidates for such training, we find that persons coming from hilly, tribal and backward areas do not get a chance for admission in such training institutions, although they possess minimum qualifications, with the result that the Department is also subsequently faced with the problem of posting people to such areas. Here I am not talking about advanced training courses, but courses for telephone operators and even linemen. If so, will the Government reserve certain seats for people coming from tribal, hilly and backward areas so that the problem of posting of personnel being faced by the Department at the moment will not arise?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : While it may not be possible to actually reserve seats in our training institutions for people from backward areas and tribal areas, the needs of the tribal areas so far as trained personnel to run our system are concerned, are very much recognised by us and actually

in the North Eastern Region and hilly areas, we are really finding it difficult to send trained people. So, we are imparting training to those people who are actually stationed there. Therefore, the question that the hon. member raised regarding reservation should not arise because we want those areas to function properly and people from that area are being trained in our institutions to work in that area.

[Translation]

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister where this training centre is located in Bihar ; if there is none, the time by which the training centre is proposed to be opened ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is a training centre in Bihar. As I have indicated in the list, a training centre is there and the number of such centres will be increased depending upon the requirement.

[English]

Storage Covers for Petroleum Products

*310. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that storage covers for petroleum products in the country will come down substantially due to shortage of funds towards the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) if so, the number of storage covers with capacity at present available to cover petroleum products in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The adequacy of storage capacity for petroleum products in the country is continually reviewed and, depending upon availability of funds, augmentation done wherever necessary. It would not be in the public interest to give any details.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I do not understand what is the public interest involved in it which prevents the hon. Minister to give further details. Anyway, I would like to know the follow-

ing from the hon. Minister. When was the last survey done ? According to this survey, what is the latest position with regard to the petroleum storage capacity, the present availability and requirement ? What are the special efforts that are being made to improve the situation ? What was the money set apart for augmentation of the storage capacity in the Seventh Plan and what is the allotment made during the Seventh Plan ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :

Sir, the augmentation of storage capacity is a continuous process and in accordance with the growing demand. We try to see that sufficient storage capacity is built up. Ordinarily, we would like to have storage capacity for a period of 45 days. But, because of resource constraints, sometimes this storage capacity is not maintained,

Because of the strategic reasons and security and vulnerable nature of the products. I had requested that it would not be in the public interest to give the details. So far as the Seventh Five Year Plan allocation is concerned, we are finding it difficult to get money for the storage required during the Seventh Five Year Plan. However, nothing can be said as the Plan is yet to be finalised.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the difficulties or inconveniences that will be caused in this field, the field of petroleum products coverage, due to lack of proper facilities, what are the proposals of the Government to overcome this shortage and the inconveniences caused on account of it ? How do they propose to overcome it and whether this storage coverage for petroleum products need any sophisticated technology and any steps are being taken in that regard for foreign collaboration ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The difficulties which are to be faced for lack of proper storage capacities are tremendous and they are with regard to the supply of petroleum products to the consuming centres at proper time ; that is obvious. But it is a question of finding ways and means to construct or to provide for this storage capacity. Therefore funds have to be sanctioned by the Planning Commission and if funds are sanctioned by the Plan-