

if so, the time by which it will be introduced ? [Translation]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, we shall introduce micro-wave system at a number of places. Not only micro-wave, we also want to extend the present Satellite facility on a large scale. I agree with what the hon. Member has said that our problems will not be solved only by increasing the number of exchanges or increasing the telephone network as long as we are short of connecting systems. Therefore, our schemes are to introduce these systems as early as possible, whether it is micro-wave, satellite or any other system.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, work on Micro-wave Tower has started in Bastar district. I want to know from the hon. Member whether there is any time limit for its completion ? We see that the work on this Tower is going on for the last five years. Our Adivasi brethren say that a place for an angel from the sky is being built in that Tower. I want to know how much time will it take to complete ?

MR. SPEAKER : If an angel is to descend there, then also add what date has been fixed for that.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : I will let our Adivasis know the date if I am told about it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I cannot tell exactly which micro-wave tower the hon. Member is referring to. but the work which has been started will certainly be completed.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Is it a fact that in many district headquarters of our country telephone exchanges are not automatic ? If so, is there any planning with the Government to convert all the exchanges in district headquarters into automatic exchanges ? If so, by what time this programme will be completed ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that all district headquarters in the country do not have automatic exchanges. We are trying to make them automatic in the Seventh plan.

Collapse of Microwave Tower near Lalgah Railway Station.

*313 **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Microwave Tower under construction in Rajasthan near Lalgah Railway Station collapsed when struck by a low velocity dust storm ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the responsibility has been fixed and action taken against defaulters ; and

(d) whether Government propose to get other Microwave Towers built in the country, examined in order to ascertain their soundness ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) (a) Initial reports indicate that the tower collapsed due to a high velocity whirl-wind.

(b) The reasons are under investigation.

(c) Responsibility can be fixed only when investigations are completed.

(d) Instruction for routine maintenance of Towers are already in force. Further instruction if required, will be issued when a definite cause of the collapse of tower is established.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : The hon. Minister in his reply has given 'high velocity whirl-wind' as the cause for the collapse of the tower and has stated that the causes are under investigation. It gives rise to many questions. However, may I know who had built this tower and how the Government satisfy themselves as to the soundness of the towers constructed by it ?

I also want to know the places where Micro-wave towers have been constructed

and whether soundness of their construction has since been tested? What steps the Government propose to take to check recurrence of such incidents in future with regard to the network of towers that we are going to have during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, this tower was under construction at Lalgarh in Bikaner. Work on this tower had started in 1985 and it had been raised upto a height of 80 metres and it was to be raised upto a height of 100 metres. But, in the meantime, high velocity winds struck on the 12th June, 1985 due to which this tower, which was under construction, collapsed and with it collapsed the chimney of Bikaner Power House. All this happened due to high velocity winds.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Sir, let the hon. Minister also indicate the speed of the winds. (*Interruptions*)

It would have been better, had the hon. Minister said whirl-wind or storm..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : In Rajasthan, high velocity winds blow.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, it is being investigated. Its foundation is intact, it has not collapsed. The tower collapsed due to strong winds while it was under construction and we are investigating into it. We are investigating whether there was some defect in design or whether structure was weak and action would be taken on the basis of the findings of the investigation.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Are any step being taken to check the recurrence of similar incidents in future?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The information collected by us has revealed that during the past so many years, only three such incidents have taken place involving collapse of towers under construction. Investigation in those cases was also conducted and report thereon is also with us. On the basis of this report we are advising the people engaged in research to change the design. But this incident has occurred all of a sudden. Steps on how to check recurrence of similar incidents will be taken only after the report is received.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, the MLAs are not being provided telephone connections. The MLAs who had been elected in 1983, have fortunately been elected in 1985 also. We have given many representations but not a single MLA has been provided a telephone connection in Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know whether the Government is giving stepmotherly treatment to Andhra Pradesh because it is being ruled by Telugu Desam, or whether the Minister is going to give telephone connections to all the MLAs immediately. Since they are also public representatives, they are also representing their constituencies, they must be provided telephone connections immediately.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : No big tower is going to collapse in Andhra Pradesh.

Manufacture of Passenger Vehicles

*314. **SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state : (a) whether Government have liberalised licensing for manufacture of passenger vehicles in the country ;

(b) the number of licences or letters of intent so far issued for manufacture of passenger vehicles, with names of foreign collaborators ;

(c) the annual capacity of vehicles of each of the manufacturing companies ; and

(d) the likely market price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) In terms of notifications issued in January, 1985, motor vehicles have been grouped into two main categories of 2-wheelers and 4-wheelers for the purpose of licensing.

(b) and (c) A statement in respect of major manufacturers is given below.

(d) As there is no control on prices, information regarding the prices of different makes and models of vehicles is not maintained by the Ministry. However, this information is available with the manufacturers/dealers.