

giving serious consideration and has he decided upon some time-frame within which he expects to complete his consideration and frame upon it ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : No time-frame in terms of days and weeks or months can be given. But as I have stated that, the way in which we have gone about, we are very keen and we will do it very soon.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : The point is, they are very much agitated about the question whether there is to be a price control or not ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No cross-questioning.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All that will be taken into consideration.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether the Government is aware of a sudden spurt in the prices of essential drugs now and then and if so, whether the Government will come forward with a definite price policy for maintenance of stability in the prices of essential drugs ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Some of them have price control. We have decontrolled certain essential drugs ; in the last financial budget we have taken them out of the price control system so that there can be more production and the prices can come down.

DR. V. VENKATESH : In this country about a ten million people are suffering from tuberculosis and about four million people are suffering from leprosy. That is the state of affairs in our country so far health condition is concerned. I want to know from the Government whether they are going to have a new policy immediately in the manufacturing system in order to check these chronic diseases. The drug manufacturers are getting 300 to 400 per cent profit. Why is Government silent ? They are only saying that they are considering very seriously. This is a serious matter. I want to know from the Government whether they are going to do it immediately or not.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as tuberculosis and leprosy are concerned, the

best way is to encourage the growth of effective drugs like Rifampicin . . .

DR. V. VENKATESH : But that drug is not available.

SHRI VESANT SATHE : That drug has not been developed in India from the basic stage. We have to import it and all that we can do is to allow its import liberally for all those who want to use the drug in this country.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Importing the technology or the drug ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Those who want can import the technology so that you can adopt it here. Some people are trying to do it. But before you can do that, you must at least get the drug so that you can treat T.B. and leprosy. That is our policy, and we are doing it.

In reply to an earlier question, I had said about decontrol of certain essential drugs. What I meant was, under the Budget, we have delicensed some of the essential drugs—not decontrolled. I want to correct it.

Collaboration agreements for Development of Telecom. Facilities

*307. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL**
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of collaboration agreements have been entered into with some foreign countries for development of telecom facilities ;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of each agreement entered into and the project link-up for each ; and

(c) what are the financial tie-ups and when the projects will go into production ?

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

(b) and (c) Statement I, II and III are given below.

Statement—I

Details of the on-going Important Collaboration Agreements entered into by the Undertakings of Department of Telecommunications and by Department of Telecommunications

S. No.	Product/Collaborator	Capacity	Agreement Details	Financial tie-up	Production
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Indian Telephone Industries Limited					
1.	Electro-mechanical Common Control Crossbar (ICP version) Switching Eqpt. (M/s. Bell Telephone Manufacturing Co., Belgium)	2 lakh lines per annum at Rae Bareilly Unit of ITI.	Agreement signed on 31.3.1981. Limited collaboration only to help setting up the facilities.	Belgium Credit (800 MBF)	Started in 1982-83. Full capacity expected to be achieved in 1988-89
2.	Digital Electronic Eqpt. (M/s. CIT-Alcatel, France)	5 lakh lines per annum at Mankapur, U.P.	Agreement signed on 24.7.82. Agreement envisages transfer of know-how for manufacture of E10B equipment	French Credit (357 MFF)	Production started in 1985-86. Full capacity expected to be achieved in 1989-90.
3.	Concentrator type Multi-Access Rural Radio System and End Links (M/s. Kokusai Electric Company, Japan)	24 systems per annum at Naini End Links at Bangalore.	Agreement signed on 9.5.83. Minor collaboration to acquire know-how in a specialised field.	No credit agreement	Expected to start in 1985-86. Full capacity expected to be achieved in 1988-89.
4.	Telephone Instruments of New Technology and related critical parts (M/s. FACE Standard, Italy).	5 lakh telephone instruments and 2.5 lakh critical parts per annum at each of the two units, Bangalore and Naini.	Agreement signed on 4.10.1983. The collaboration is essential to acquire know-how for mass production technology, continuing quality, reliability and reduced cost of production.	Italian Credit (17 Million US Dollars)	Expected to start in 1985-86. Full capacity to be achieved in 1989-90.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange Equipment (M/s CIT-Alcatel, France)	30,000 lines of TAX equipment per annum at Palghat.	Agreement signed on 15.11.1983. The collaboration envisages the transfer of know-how for manufacture.	French credit (98 MFF)	Expected to start in 1985-86. Full capacity to be achieved in 1987-88.
II. Hindustan Teleprinters Limited					
1.	Electronic Teleprinters (M/s. SAGMN of France)	8,000 nos. per annum at Hosur.	Agreement taken on record by the Government in May, 1985 and the collaboration envisages transfer of know how for manufacture.	8th IDA Credit (6.5 Million US Dollars)	Production expected to start from 1985-86. Full capacity to be achieved during fourth year of production.

III. Agreement Signed by Department of Telecommunications

The Department of Telecommunications have signed agreements with M/s. CIT-Alcatel of France for supply of digital electronic telephone exchanges and performance of related services (439 Million French Franc), Agreement for Research and development assistance (18 million French Franc), supply of electronic trunk automatic exchanges, TAX-cum-subscriber exchanges and performance of related services (147 Million French Franc). Department of Telecommunications have also entered into agreements with M/s. Sofrecom, France for technical cooperation (37 Million French Franc), and miscellaneous equipment agreement (19 Million French Franc). The financing of these projects will be from French Credit—50% treasury loans and 50% buyer's credit.

The Department of Telecommunications has also entered into collaboration agreement with M/s. Krone of West Germany for manufacture of Cable Termination Box of 100 pairs capacity. The ultimate production capacity would be 25,000 nos. per annum. The total cost of the project is Rs. 2 crores. The project shall be finance from KFW loan amounting to DM 8 million. The full production is likely to reach by April 1988.

Statement-Ij

Details of other Agreements of Indian Telephone Industries Limited.

S. No.	Product/Collaborator	Project Reference	Financial Tie-up	Production	Remarks
1.	FM-FDM Ground Communication Equipment (M/s Nippon Electric Co. Ltd. Japan)	Agreement signed on 12.3.1981	No financial tie-up	Production started in 1980	Collaboration in a limited area for acquiring high technology for which indigenous R & D would have taken long time.
2.	FET-Low Noise Amplifier Systems. (M/s NEC, Japan)	Agreement signed on 24.8.1983	No financial tie-up	Production started in 1984-85.	Collaboration in a limited area of high technology to meet priority requirements of Satellite communication links.

Statement-III
Details of Other Agreements

S. No.	Name of the Indian Company	Product	Name of the Collaborator	Date of commencement of commercial production
1.	Gujarat Communications and Electronics Limited	Multiaccess Radio Telephones	ITALTEL Milano	Already in Production
2.	M/s Punjab Communications Ltd.	Multiplex Systems	GRANGER Associates USA	Already in Production
3.	M/s Punjab Communications Ltd.	Multichannel Radio Relay Systems	ARE Italy	End 1986
4.	M/s Bharat Electronics Ltd.	Microwave Equipment	Communication Tech. Inc. USA	Already in Production
5.	M/s Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	Fascimile Trans-receivers	Nippon Electric Co. Ltd., Japan	End 1986
6.	M/s Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	Microwave Antennas	NERA DOVN, of Electrist Bureau Bergan, Norway	Already in Production
7.	Sh. Bjpın Kumar Aggarwal, USA (NRI)	Public Telephone	Seicсор Inc. USA	End 1986.

Manufacture of PABX Equipment

Government have selected three foreign collaborators for the transfer of technology for manufacture of Electronic PABX equipment. The details of foreign collaborators are as under :

- (i) Jeumont Schneider, France
- (ii) OKI Electric Company, Japan.
- (iii) GTE, Belgium.

Manufacture of Electronic Telephone Instruments

Government have selected three foreign collaborators for manufacture of Electronic Push Button telephones in India. The details are as follows :—

- (i) M/s Siemens AG, West Germany
- (ii) M/s Ericsson Information Systems, Sweden
- (iii) M/s IIT, FACE, Italy.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, sir, from the statements it appears that collaboration agreements have been entered into with a number of countries such as Japan, Italy, France, etc. and credit has also been provided for this. But, there seems to be no improvement in our telephone system; we are still carrying on with the same old system. First of all, I want to know as to how many of these collaboration agreements have been entered into with the public sector industries and how many of them are with the private sector industries. When in spite of all these collaborations, the telephone system in our country has not become efficient, is there some provision in each of these collaboration agreements to have wireless telephone system and satellite communication system with a view to bring efficiency in the telephone system and to provide increasing telephone facilities in the rural areas? If so, how are you going to increase telephone facilities in the villages?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, The statements clearly show the number of agreements entered into with the Indian Telephone Industries; with the Hindustan Teleprinters and with our department as also whether the agreements have been entered with the private sector or public sector. As regards the general question asked by him that in spite of all this, there has been no improvement in our telephone system and by when the satellite system will be introduced in the country, this has been discussed in this House a number of times. I have also replied to the questions that all efforts are being made within the resources available with our department to improve the telephone system. But going by the size of allocation given to our Department during the Seventh Five Year Plan, we are likely to end up with a sizable cut in our ambitious projects and it will take sometime to provide a satisfactory telephone system to the hon. Members. However, it will be our endeavour to improve the telephone system.

So far as the question of satellite system is concerned, Sir, we are using satellite system even today, especially in our North-Eastern region which is a hilly

region full of forests. Besides, the satellite system is also being used in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. We have our own INSAT-I B and other available satellites which we are using. Our effort is to make maximum use of these satellites for the remote areas where we have to face a lot of difficulties to reach with the help of other means of communications.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to the recent agreements for the manufacture of electronic telephone instruments in collaboration with Japan, Italy, West Germany and Sudan, I want to know the time by which the production of Push Button Telephones will commence. The other thing which I want to know is as to how much minimum share in the matter of new telephone facility out of all these projects will go to the rural areas during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the Push Button telephone. 10 Public Sector industries and 30 Private Sector industries have been given licences for this purpose. As I have stated in the statement also, three types of techniques have been approved for it and they have been issued licences. They can use any of these three techniques.

Sir, so far as the extension of telephone facilities in the rural areas is concerned, we had formulated a comprehensive plan under which it had been envisaged that by the end of the Seventh Plan, there should be no place throughout the country at a distance of more than 5 kms. from a public telephone. But this target of ours will not be possible to achieve now. Apart from this, it was also decided to link all district headquarters with the State Government headquarters/Capital with a dependable communication system and also to provide S.T.D. facility there. For that we had made provision in the plan, but we did not get allocation according to that provision and hence it had to be abandoned. But in spite of that we are giving priority to linking other places of a State with its capital with a proper communication link, whether it is through wireless or through other system

so that at least they could have direct link. Besides, we also propose to carry this facility to other rural areas where it is not available at present.

Sir, you yourself know that even in rural areas, there are such places where this facility is needed most such as *Mandis* where they need it for economic reasons. They want to know the price trends of agricultural commodities such as cumminseed, turmeric and wheat. Therefore, the people are very eager to have this facility. The hon. Members are of the view that this facility should be extended to rural areas and the Government will make all possible efforts to do so.

[English]

DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The hon. Minister has given a rosy picture and he reeled out so many names in regard to collaboration with foreign companies.

MR SPEAKER : You would have been happy with a gloomy one !

DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Minister has replied to my hon. friend that he has made a concrete proposal to give telephone facilities within 5 km of every village. But I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the total amount of money allotted in the Sixth Five Year Plan and whether all the money had been spent or not. If not, why not ? Secondly, the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister have visited many places like USA, Germany, Canada, Japan and they have received so many offers on easy term loans. I would like to know why the Ministry is not exploring these possibilities to combat the difficulties in fulfilling the Five Year Plan proposals. It will at least give some relief from the constraint of funds difficulty.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, in the Sixth Plan we spent about Rs. 2400 crores and in some sectors like transmission etc. we spent much more than what was allocated under the Plan. As regards Seventh Five Year Plan we had asked and the Planning Commission had at one stage in their working group agreed to the allocation of Rs. 11,000 crores in the Seventh Plan but that amount has now been reduced to Rs. 4010 crores and, therefore, the expan-

sion and the improvement of service would be affected to that extent.

The hon. Member mentioned about various offers regarding expansion of telecom facilities. We are receiving from foreign countries a large number of offers, most of them unsolicited, saying that they can invest large sums of money and on credit etc. etc. Our policy is not to allow unrestricted import of technology. In the telecom sector we are selective in the sense that some we want to manufacture ourselves and some we want to test before we go in for that. Therefore, it is not possible to avail those offer. Those who are serious have been allowed to compete in the open tender for our various requirements and if they come up by way of quality and economic viability we would be happy to consider them.

Sir, as regards earlier question Sixth Plan allocation was Rs. 2336 crores and utilisation Rs. 2721 crores.

[Translation]

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been asked in part (a) of the question :

[English]

“whether a number of collaboration agreements have been entered into with some foreign countries for development of telecom facilities.”

[Translation]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government want to import software and hardware for telecom facilities and want to set up an industry for that ? If it is proposed to set up a factory, whether priority will be given to a backward State like Bihar also for setting up a telecom factory there ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : So far as Bihar is concerned, licences have been sought by the Industrial Development Corporations of a number of State Governments and, I understand, Bihar might also be one of them. If they are anxious in this field, we are ready to extend our full cooperation to them. So far as the question of setting up a factory by Govern-

ment is concerned, it has not been considered so far.

[*Eng'ish*]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, in the statement laid on the Table the second digital electronic factory to be set-up in Bangalore does not find a place. May I know whether Government has taken decision in the matter or will it meet the same fate as the first Digital electronic factory which was decided to be set-up in Bangalore but was later shifted to U.P. ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, the second digital electronic factory does not find a place because we have not yet entered into agreement with respect to that factory. The matter is under consideration.

New Anti-T. B. Drug

*308. **SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :**
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 19 October, 1985 under the heading "Vital TB drug developed in India" and

(b) if so, how far it has been proved successful in eradicating TB ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The drug referred to in the press report is Rifampicin which is already being used in the country for the treatment of T. B.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the name of the companies which are manufacturing this drug in India as well as abroad and whether the Government is aware of the importance of this drug.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, in India, we have given licence to H.A.L. for manufacture of 15.5 tonnes, M/s Themis Pharmaceuticals for the manu-

facture of 1 tonne, M/s. Hindustan Ciba Geigy for the manufacture of 12 tonnes, M/s. Cadila Labs. for 10 tonnes, M/s. Curewel (I) Ltd. for 10 tonnes and M/s. Alembic Chemicals for the manufacture of 20 tonnes. There are four countries which are specialising in this. They are : Italy, Pharmachim, Sophia, Bulgaria, Chong Kum Dang Corporation, South Korea and Ciech Polfa, Poland. These are the main countries which are manufacturing this drug.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What steps are taken by the Government to propagate extensively this drug ?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, it has been recently reported as also in the newspapers about this drug. M/s. Themis Pharmaceuticals in India have been able to manufacture this drug. But they are not yet a commercial producer. The commercial production has not started. This is the usual yardstick. Once they start manufacture, then they come to us for price fixation and we can give as much help as possible.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the hon. Minister kindly let us know the total number of deaths because of TB ?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I don't have the figures for this at the moment.

Setting up of Thermal Power Station in Kanya Kumari, Tamil Nadu

*311. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open a Thermal Power Station in Kanya Kumari District of Tamil Nadu :

(b) if so, whether any survey is being undertaken in this connection ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) It is not proposed to set up a thermal power station in the Central Sector in Kanya Kumari district.