

Exchange (Uttar Pradesh) through S.T.D. and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) Due to limitation of resources, priority is being given to connect District Headquarters to State Capitals. There is no plan at present to link Lucknow with Ayodhya Telephone Exchange through S.T.D.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, I think it will not be proper to keep Ayodhya, the city of Lord Rama, so low in the list of priorities. Mahatma Gandhi had aimed at establishing *Ram Rajya*. Keeping in view the importance of this city as also my request for linking Ayodhya Exchange with Lucknow and Delhi, will the hon. Minister consider modernisation of this Exchange ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, there is one Exchange in Ayodhya at present having a capacity of 100 lines of which only 61 lines are working and there is no waiting list. If devotees of Rama are anxious, they can get telephone connections.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Sir, I had raised this question keeping in view the convenience of the tourists visiting this place.

My second supplementary is that a decision to convert Faizabad Telephone Exchange, which is the district headquarter of Ayodhya city, into electronic exchange was taken recently, but it has come to my notice that that decision is now being reversed. Therefore, I would request and like to know, through you, Sir, that what is the present position and by when the proposed electronic exchange would be installed there ?

MR SPEAKER : Let us accede to the request.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about Ayodhya and Faizabad, the city of Lord Rama and he had also met me. This is a fact that Faizabad is a district headquarter. It has an automatic telephone

exchange as also S.T.D. facility, but there is a suggestion to improve it. We shall certainly consider the suggestion given by the hon. Member

[English] -

Viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited

*316. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the employees union regarding viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited, a public sector enterprise ;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Engineering Projects (India) Limited Employees Union have given suggestions to the Government for improving the viability of the Company, which include recovery of advances being shown as losses, appointment of a regular Chief Executive, action against corrupt officials and running the Company on a new footing. While taking a final decision on certain proposals for restructuring of the Company which are under consideration, Government will give due consideration to the suggestions made by the Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the Minister whether any inquiry has been ordered into the losses of the EPI and also against the corrupt officials, as demanded by the Engineering Projects (India) Limited's Employees Union ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : As far as the losses are concerned, the matter is being inquired into and as soon as we are able to identify the people concerned, suitable action will be taken.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the employees of the State-owned EPT have proposed to take over this sick company as a cooperative venture to ensure its viability? If so, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Employees have made various proposals. But the question of employees' taking over will also involve financing etc. and the viability of the project itself. All these matters, as I have said in my written statement, will be taken into account when a final decision is taken.

Setting up of Coir Industry at Konaseema in East Godavari District (A.P.)

*317. **SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any applications for starting coir industry at Konaseema in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, when Government propose to start the coir industry there ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start this industry by Government themselves as a large quantity of coconuts is produced in this district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Just like Kerala, this area is also mainly producing coconuts. There is no industry by the Central Government in this area. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal in the Seventh Plan, to set up a coir industry in Konaseema region.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I have already said that there is no proposal. But if the

State Government, or any private organisation, or any cooperative organisation comes forward to start such an industry, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Private members have sent so many representations to the hon. Minister, but no licences are issued. As many applications have already been sent to the Minister, may I know whether he would immediately sanction the licence to put a coir industry in this area ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not know as to which application he is referring to. Applications are examined and if found viable, we will definitely consider the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Vasantji, invite him to your office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can come and meet the Minister of Industry.

[Translation]

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask you a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Of me? Yes, you may.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : The moment the clock strikes 12, you leave the House for your Chamber, but the hon. Ministers say 'yes' to 'yes' and 'no' to 'no' before 12'0 clock.

MR. SPEAKER : I remain very much here ; I do not go anywhere. I am at your service both here as well as there.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : But in reply to the questions asked thereafter, they say 'no' to even 'yes'.

MR. SPEAKER : In future, you ask only such questions whose answers are all 'yes'.

[English]

Capacity utilisation of Power Plants in Public Sector vis-a-vis Private Sector

*318. **DR. A.K. PATIL :**
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :