

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 24, 1962/Bhadra 2,
1884 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trunk Booking

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- *549. { Shri B. K. Das:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Basumatari:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from various commercial organisations like Indian Chamber of Commerce from Calcutta that they always find it difficult to get trunk lines to big cities like Bombay, Delhi, Madras etc.;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to remove the difficulties; and

(c) what are the reasons for such difficulty?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The difficulties in getting Trunk calls from Calcutta are mainly due to:—

- (i) Frequent copper wire thefts on trunk routes linking Calcutta with Bombay, Madras, Gauhati and Katihar. These have been reported to the State police.
- (ii) Insufficiency of Trunk Circuits on the main trunk routes emanating from Calcutta viz.,

Delhi, Madras, Gauhati, Cuttack. Action has been taken to provide additional circuits within this financial year.

- (iii) Insufficiency of trunk exchange equipment at Calcutta. The Calcutta trunk exchange is being expanded during the current financial year. It may be added that considerable improvement is noticeable in the performance of trunk circuits on Calcutta-Bombay route since the last week of June, 1962.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that wire thefts, and often weather conditions, are the ready replies that Government give wherever there is a disruption of this nature, may I know what steps Government have taken to check wire thefts?

Shri Bhagavati: Certain equipments have been installed to locate the theft areas, and we are constantly in consultation with the State Government and the police, so that effective steps are taken in this regard.

Shri Hem Barua: Some of the measures just now outlined by the Deputy Minister are only for long-term relief. May I know what steps Government have adopted to improve the situation at the present moment, because there is regular complaint of dislocation?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): What else can be done except to intensify the check? We have no control over weather as yet. So far as theft is concerned, we have constantly been taking it up with the State Governments whether by intensifying the patrolling or things like that, it can be minimised.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know in which States wire thefts are the highest in number?

Shri Bhagavati: In West Bengal, Bihar and some other States.

Shri D. C. Sharma: We have been hearing the same complaint every year, and the same assurances have been given every year. In view of that, I want to find out the load that is carried by these three big exchanges and what is being done to meet that load now and during the succeeding years.

Mr. Speaker: There are three or four 'ands' put in between.

An Hon. Member: That is not good English.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I speak correct English, and I take pride in that. If anybody objects to that, I think he is very much mistaken.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In view of the fact that the same complaints have been uttered on the floor of this House every time, and the same assurances have been given every time, I would like to know whether Government have made any survey of the load on these three exchanges at Calcutta Bombay and Delhi, to see how it can be dealt with in a phased programme or in one year.

Shri Bhagavati: The traffic has increased very much. I may quote some figures in this connection. In 1956-57, the effective traffic was 4,63,394; in 1960-61, the effective traffic was 7,38,949, and in 1961-62, the effective traffic was 7,90,891. From these figures, it will be clear that the traffic has increased very much.

The steps taken mainly are as follows. Coaxial cables are being laid in the main routes from Calcutta to Delhi, from Calcutta to Bombay and from Calcutta to Madras. I hope in these two years much improvement will be effected due to the steps taken.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether it is only the theft of the copper wire which is the reason for all these complications or whether

there are certain other factors? If it is only the theft of copper wire then the whole line on that particular day will be completely out of order.

Shri Bhagavati: Weather condition is another factor which causes interruption. Due to storm, floods etc. also the lines are disrupted.

Cancer

***550. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths by cancer have considerably increased and are on an increase;

(b) what accounts for this unfortunate development; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) and (b). No statistical data is available to prove conclusively that deaths from cancer are on the increase.

Factors leading to causation of cancer have not yet been accurately established. The apparent increase in the incidence may be due to (i) general consciousness amongst the public about this disease (ii) increasing practice on the part of the medical profession to refer suspected cases to the cancer hospitals and (iii) better diagnostic methods.

(c) Facilities for the treatment of cancer exist in all big hospitals in India. They are being expanded.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the incidence of this disease has anything to do with the modern progress and whether we have any lessons to learn from the so-called progressive countries of the world and the researches made there?

Dr. D. S. Raju: The original question was about the causes of cancer. They have not been fully established. There are a variety of causes that are responsible for the causing of cancer.