

because of the overcrowded lines, may I know whether Government propose to have new lines for these new trunk call systems?

Shri Bhagavati: The introduction of direct automatic trunk dialling requires a large number of reliable trunk circuits, and that has been done. So, these difficulties would not occur.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why these automatic trunk call facilities have been given in such abundance only in Uttar Pradesh?

Shri Bhagavati: No, these will be extended to other parts of the country also. As a matter of fact, projects for laying coaxial cables between Delhi-Agra-Calcutta and Agra-Bombay have already been sanctioned. As for the Delhi-Agra-Calcutta section, this project is nearing completion.

श्री विभूति मिश्र: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली से पटना की जो ट्रंक लाइन है वह बराबर खराब रहती है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बात तो उस के फैसले की है ।

Shri Nath Pai: Is the hon. Minister aware that with a quantitative expansion of these services, there is a progressive qualitative deterioration in the available or in the existing services?

Shri Bhagavati: That is because there are more demands and there is increased traffic. So, this system has been introduced. I think gradually when we can have coaxial cables throughout the country, these difficulties will be minimised to a great extent.

Shri Nath Pai: The answer has hardly anything to do with the question that I asked. I asked whether there was a qualitative deterioration with the expansion of the services.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that with the laying of coaxial cables, these difficulties will be minimised, and there will be improvement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Before this particular system is introduced in the other cities, may I know whether Government contemplate to change in certain cities the present system of telephone through exchanges and convert them into automatic exchanges, because in many cities, these automatic telephone exchanges are not there?

Shri Bhagavati: I could not catch the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The main question relates to direct trunk lines. I want to know whether....

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question should be confined to the main question that is before us. What the hon. Member has asked is quite a different thing altogether. He should realise that.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Have complaints been received that these direct lines are often out of order all over the country, and if so, whether Government have made any enquiries in this regard to find out whether these complaints are true?

Shri Bhagavati: The hon. Member is referring to overhead lines. The main question before us refers to automatic trunk calls.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या ग्राटोमैटिक और ग्राडिनरी ट्रंक कालम के चार्ज एक से हैं या उन में कोई फर्क है ?

Shri Bhagavati: The charges are the same

Rationalisation of Water Charges

*1498. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to rationalise the rates for water charges before they give assistance for water supply schemes;

(b) the rate charged in different towns with population of more than one lakh; and

(c) how many of these schemes are self-paying?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) A statement containing the necessary information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The State Governments have been requested to include in their Engineering Report for each scheme submitted to the Ministry of Health, a discussion on its financial implications also with the capital and maintenance costs involved and the means of repayment thereof.

Due to lack of a uniform procedure in the financing methods followed by the different States, a rationalisation of water charges in order to make such schemes self-paying has not yet become possible.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In the statement, it has been stated that:

"Due to lack of a uniform procedure in the financing methods followed by the different States, a rationalisation of water charges in order to make such schemes self-paying has not yet become possible."

May I know whether any rationale or any guidance has been evolved by the Central Government in this regard, and if so, whether it has been communicated to the States, and what their reaction is?

Dr. D. S. Raju: The idea of rationalisation is appreciated by the Central Government, and it is being put forward before the State Governments also, and they have been requested to keep in view this fact that water charges must be levied on consumers, depending upon the rate of production and distribution.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: During the First Plan, the Second Plan and the Third Plan periods, Government have been giving assistance to the State Governments. May I know on what basis this assistance is being given, if the State Governments are not following the rationale and the formulae evolved by the Central Government?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): The assistance is based on certain principles which have been discussed here on several occasions. For urban water supply it is 50 per cent loan and for rural water supply..

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: On not one occasion this has been discussed here.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: So far as urban water supply is concerned, most State Governments are levying some kind of water charge. It is not uniform. So far as rural water supply is concerned, the question of charging for the supply has not been taken up practically anywhere.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In the absence of any uniform procedure as just now revealed by the hon. Minister, what other methods are available to Government for rationalisation of water charges prevailing in different States?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I do not understand the question. . .

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The question is very simple.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: State Governments are trying to levy water charges according to their own light in different places. Where custom has been prevalent that there be no charges they think the levy should be very little in the first place. It may be a little more in another place. This matter is coming up again in the Central Council of Ministers for Local Self-Government. We are trying to rationalise and bring about a uniform pattern. But upto now it has not been possible.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The reply of the hon. Minister is confusing.

Shri Daji: The Minister has listed various factors due to which uniformity has not been achieved. May I know whether the Central Government has at least evolved certain principles on the basis of which charges have to be levied?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The principles are there—the capital cost, capability of the people to pay, recurring cost etc. But no municipality including the Delhi Municipality is able to recover the total expenditure from the water charges.

Shri Man Sinh Patel: Will not the rationalisation of water charges lead to interference with the administration of local self-Government bodies?

Mr. Speaker: No answer is necessary. Shri Mathur.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Parts (b) and (c) relate to towns with a population of more than one lakh. The answer to that is that the information is being collected. Is it that only when this question was tabled that the information is being collected or whether during the two Plans and now under the Third earlier effort has been made to collect this preliminary simple information for the formulation of any plan? If it is the latter, what has been the result of that effort?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I am afraid I am not in a position to tell the hon. Member as to what was the basis of collection of information for the successive Plans. All I can say is that we are trying to collect this information at present according to the wishes of the hon. Member.

**Fishery Operative Training Institute,
Cochin**

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{ **Shri Warrior:**
*1499. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
 { **Shri Umanath:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have already received the preliminary report of the Norwegian expert on the establishment and working of the Fishery Operative Training Institute at Cochin; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the report and taken decision thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) Yes.

(b) A detailed scheme for the establishment of the Institute is being prepared by Government in the light of the recommendations of the Norwegian Expert.

Shri Warrior: What are the important recommendations contained in the report of the Norwegian expert?

Shri Shinde: They relate to the training to be given in the Institute, the equipment that would be necessary for the Training Institute, courses, curriculum etc.

Shri Warrior: Have Government taken any decision yet for the purchase of equipment necessary for the Institute?

Shri Shinde: No. The proposal is under consideration. The scheme is being prepared and as soon as it is sanctioned by the expenditure finance committee of the Finance Ministry, orders for equipment will be placed.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether the admission capacity of the Institute has been fixed?

Shri Shinde: Yes, the admission capacity has also been considered. In the initial stage it has been considered that 48 students would be admitted in the Institute.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know whether any financial or technical assistance is also being given by the Norwegian Government?

Shri Shinde: No, Sir. Financial aid at this stage is not envisaged.

Shri Warrior: What will be the approximate amount necessary for this,