

Urban Areas

- (i) As and when daily average of telegraph traffic reaches the norm of 500 operations, the combined Post and Telegraph Offices are upgraded to the status of independent Telegraph Offices.
- (ii) Also in a place, if a telegraph office is already existing and the delivered telegrams are more than 500, an area can be carved out for 200 telegrams delivery to open a zonal telegraph office.
- (iii) There is also a policy to setup an independent telegraph office at each Revenue District Headquarter in the country irrespective of any prescribed norms.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken and being taken by the Government to make Postal and Telegraph Service more efficient

Department of Post

- (a) Introduction of Speed post Service, Domestic and International for movement of time sensitive mail—The Domestic Speed Post Service is available at 73 cities on the national network. India is linked to 76 countries on the International EMS Network.
- (b) Metro Channel has been introduced to expedite movement of mail between Metropolitan cities. Rajdhani Channel has been introduced linking Delhi to a number of State capitals. Business Channel has been introduced to devote special attention to bulk mail offered by Business houses.
- (c) Computer based multi-purpose machines have been introduced in selected Post Offices to provide better service to consumers.
- (d) Transmission of Money Order through Satellite Channels has been introduced. 69 cities are linked on this channel at present. There is a plan to cover 75 cities during the current financial year.
- (e) Hybrid mail service has also been introduced recently.
- (f) Automated Sorting machines are functioning at Bombay & Madras with very high capacity to process mail.
- (g) An ambitious programme of modernisation and computerisation of front room operations has been taken up.

Department of Telecommunications

- (i) Ten store and forward message switching 128 Lines systems, eleven SFMS-64 Lines systems and Twenty

one SFMS-32 Lines systems are already operational in the telegraph network.

- (ii) About 190 Electronic Keyboard concentrators and 1850 Electronic Keyboards are already working all over India. They have been inducted in the Telegraph Network to replace age—old low speed more system:
- (iii) About 800 formatted terminals have been inducted in the Telegraph network.
- (iv) One SFMS-64 Lines system at Jaipur and one SFMS-32 Lines system as Shillong are under installation.
- (v) Nine more SFMS-32 Lines systems are under supply and installation.
- (vi) 600 more formatted terminals will be commissioned shortly.

[English]

STD facility at halt in Jabalpur

3419. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that STD services were at halt on 13.6.96 in Jabalpur area in Madhya Pradesh due to cutting of optical fibre cable;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against defaulters; and

(d) the precautionary measures taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir, STD services from Jabalpur were partially affected for 6 hours and 30 minutes, on 13.6.96 due to cut in Optical Fibre Cable caused by rodents.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above question does not arise.

(d) The fault spot has been concreted and maintenance efforts have been stepped up.

[Translation]

Conditions for T.V. Channel Operators

3420. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: