

**Discontinuance of Quick Mail Service**

1548. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Quick Mail Service (QMS) has been discontinued ;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that an ordinary letter reaches the addressee in any part of the country within three or four days ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constant Monitoring of mails is done and mails arrangements are revised wherever necessary to ensure speedy transmission of mails. While every effort is made to speed up mails, for some remote areas in the country it is not feasible to reduce the transit time to three or four days.

**'Special area programme' in districts  
by K.V.I.C.**

1550. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to take up a 'special area programme' in one selected district in each State all over the country ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the programme alongwith the amount sanctioned in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government has received a proposal from Khadi and Village Industries Commission to take up a 'special area programme' in one selected district

each in twenty States all over the country. The proposal has not yet been sanctioned.

[*Translation*]

**Telephone facility in Post Offices  
in Bihar**

1551. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices with telephone facility in Bihar and of those where telephone connections are yet to be provided and the difficulties in this regard ;

(b) whether Government propose to take any effective steps in order to provide telephone connections in all the post offices of Bihar during the current financial year ; and

(c) the district-wise expenditure likely to be incurred on providing telephone connections to post offices in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 3571 Post Offices are having telephone facility and 7299 Post Offices are not provided with this facility.

(b) There is no plan to provide telephone facility in all the Post Offices in Bihar.

(c) There is a plan to open 100 Long Distance Public Telephone connections in Bihar during the current financial year. Generally these are provided in Post Offices. The estimated expenditure on per LDPT on an average is Rupee one lakh.

[*English*]

**Improvement in telephone services**

1552. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

SHRI PARASRAM  
BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently held meetings with the General Managers of

metro and major districts in the capital and stressed the need to improve the telephone services in the country ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to improve the telephone services throughout the country ?

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

(b) Following steps are being taken to improve the telephone services throughout the country :

1. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherent with electro-magnetic switching equipment used hitherto.
2. Replacement of life expired equipment.
3. Special testing of exchange equipment particularly inter-exchange junctions is being undertaken to improve inter-exchange working.
4. Working of air-conditioning plants in various exchanges is being regularly monitored to ensure proper working.
5. Laying of new junction, primary and secondary cables inducts to protect them from external damages.
6. Pressurisation of primary, secondary and junction cables to minimise cable break-down faults.
7. Use of jelly-filled cables in the distribution network to prevent entry of water in the cables to avoid faults.
8. Cable trenches are being flooded before being closed so as to detect any damage during trenching or laying of the cables. The public is being asked to inform Telephone Department before they take of digging on 'dial before dig' service so as to keep liaison with other agencies who are engaged in digging.
9. Extensive patrolling of cable routes to detect any digging operations and to take precautionary measures to avoid damage to cables.
10. Provision of high grade junction circuits on Pulse Code Modulation, Coaxial and Microwave media to provide better quality and more dependable service.
11. Rehabilitation of subscribers' fittings and the D.P. boxes to minimise faults on the line.
12. Replacement of overhead wires by insulated drop wires to avoid faults due to kite strings, bird nests etc. which lead to contact or low insulation faults.
13. Use of improved telephone instruments.
14. Replacement of aluminium wires in the fitting at the subscribers premises by copper wires to avoid break faults.
15. Computerisation of cable records and fault repair services to bring down duration of faults.
16. Computerisation of Directory Assistance, (197) service and records.
17. Computerisation operated assisted (180) trunk services.
18. Monitoring of the auto-manual service and trunk service is being carried out as to ensure prompt response on these services.
19. Public grievance cells have opened at GMs headquarters and AMs office to provide single outlet attention to the subscribers.

20. Formation of Inter Utility coordination boards involving various service agencies using underground space to avoid damage to cables.

**Telephone system in Bhopal**

1553. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone system of Bhopal city in Madhya Pradesh is very defective and obsolete ;

(b) the number of complaints received from the subscribers during the month of June, 1986 ;

(c) the steps Government are taking to improve the system ; and

(d) whether any member of the staff has been found negligent and if so, action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir. However, the telephone system of Bhopal is not obsolete

(b) Number of complaints received from the subscribers during the month of June, 1986 are 8218.

(c) Officers from Directorate visited Bhopal. Deficiencies were identified, remedial measures have been taken to speed up upgradation of the system by deputing additional technician and Assistant Engineer.

(d) The matter is being investigated and the action will be initiated against the delinquents.

**Commissioning of electronic automatic telephone exchange at Barmer (Rajasthan)**

1554. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Electronic Automatic Telephone Exchange was scheduled to be commissioned at Barmer (Rajasthan) in

August, 1986, and the building for the same was also completed upto August, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the progress in this regard uptill now ; and

(c) the time by which the exchange is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Building is expected to be ready by December, 1986. The equipment is expected to be shipped by December, 1986. Confirmation from the Overseas supplier is awaited.

**Home delivery of LPG cylinders**

1555. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation have finally decided to give up the proposal for ending home delivery of cooking gas cylinders ;

(b) whether the demand of dealers for increase in their commission has been conceded ; and

(c) whether enough precautions have been taken in the system of home delivery to ensure that half-filled cylinders are not supplied to the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.