

taking indigenous manufacture under collaboration and offers received are under consideration.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi in Defence Ministry

1227. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi is the official language of our country as per the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963;

(b) if so the position in regard to its implementation in his Ministry;

(c) whether it is a fact that hundred per cent of the items of work mentioned in section 3 (3) of this Act are required to be done in Hindi; and

(d) if so, the position regarding the implementation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). Under Article 343 (1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script is the Official Language of the Union and as per provision made in the Official Languages Act 1963 as amended, English has been allowed to continue to be used in addition to Hindi for all official purposes for the Union until Resolutions for the discontinuance of the use of English Language have been passed by the Legislatures of all the States and also both the House of Parliament.

In compliance with this constitutional requirement, Hindi is being progressively used in the transaction of business of the Ministry of Defence. All items of work mentioned in section 3 (3) of the Official Languages Act as amended are required to be done both in Hindi and English. Ministry of Defence are making every effort to comply with this requirement in full.

Telephone Service in Delhi

1228. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even light showers in Delhi cause faults in the Delhi telephones system;

(b) if so, the arrangements being made to ensure smooth working of telephones in the rainy season;

(c) whether it is also a fact that since the introduction of electronic telephone system in Delhi, most of the time, one gets wrong numbers and many times when two persons are talking on the telephone, the line gets connected with some other person; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to remove such technical faults and to meet the increasing demand of telephone connections in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : (a) Light showers do not affect the telephone system severely.

(b) To tackle the large scale cable breakdowns, which occur during the monsoon, the Department prepares itself a few months before the start of the monsoon. The Directorate issues instructions in this regard to field units to take many monsoon measures, i.e., pooling of vehicles, checking of cabinets and pillars, MDF rooms, basements, collection and storing of jointing materials and testing and keeping in fitness the various instruments to locate the cable breakdowns, etc. are specially taken care of. Most of the cables are tested for their insulation. The control rooms are set-up in all the big cities and staffed round the clock. A close watch is kept on the working of telephone systems at the highest level to achieve speedy restoration of break-down faults.

(c) No such observation has come to notice.

(d) Not applicable.

To meet the increasing demand of telephones in Delhi nearly 1,40,700 telephone lines are proposed to be added in the Delhi network during 1985-88.

[English]

Pending Cases in Bombay High Court

1229. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases, pending in Bombay High Court; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to expedite disposal of the pending cases in Bombay High Court ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of Bombay High Court the pendency of cases as on 31.12.84. is 1,02,942.

(b) Steps taken to reduce the pendency of cases in High Courts in general are indicated in the statement given below.

Statement

Steps taken to reduce pendency in High Courts

The following steps have been taken to reduce pendency in High Courts :

- (1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from Judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (vide Section 100A).
- (2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.
- (3) The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 424 on 1st July, 1985.
- (4) Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases :
 - (a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.
 - (b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable date.
 - (c) Dispensing with printing of records.
 - (d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Act.

(5) The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224A of the Constitution.

(6) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are :

(a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times and in particular to secure :

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction in costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and

(iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.

(b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

(c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

(7) The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

(8) The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures.

**Opening of Post Offices in Maharashtra
in 1985-86**

1230. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Post Offices opened during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened during 1985-86; and

(c) the number of Post Offices Proposed to be opened in Maharashtra during 1985-86 and what would be their location ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 3267 Post Offices have been opened in the last 3 years and year wise information is as under :

1982-82	1000
1983-14	2205
1984-85	62

(b) In the year 1985-86, 1755 BOs are to be opened in rural areas subject to the lifting/relaxing of economy orders banning creation of posts.

(c) 133 Branch Post Offices will be opened in Maharashtra during 1985-86 if the economy orders are relaxed, location of the BOs not yet finalised due to currency of the economy orders.

**Charges for Telephone Calls (STD)
and Telegrams on Saturday.**

1231. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that half rates are charged for telephone calls (STD) and telegrams on Sundays, the day being a holiday;

(b) whether in view of Saturdays having been declared a closed holiday, Government propose to allow half rates on Saturdays also on the lines of rates being charged on Sundays;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir, only for booking of ordinary trunk calls terminating beyond fifty Kilometers and S.V.S. trunk calls, half rates are charged, on Sunday. However telegrams are not charged at a half rate, even on Sundays. In respect of Subscriber Trunk Dialling charges, half rates are charged on Sundays.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) At the moment Government has no intention to introduce half rates for booking of trunk calls because 5 days week has been implemented only in Administrative offices whereas in operative offices still 6 days week is in vogue. Also, there is no appreciable change in the traffic pattern on Saturdays after the introduction of 5 days week. For Telegrams, this question does not arise, since even on Sundays, they are not being charged at half rates.

**Winter Uniform for Employees in
ONGC**

1132. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2222 on the 9th April, 1985 regarding the agreement between ONGC and Employees Union for Winter Uniforms and state :