

provided with the telephone directory since 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/being taken to issue the directory without further delay;

(c) whether the contractor who was assigned the job of printing Calcutta Telephone Directory failed to bring out the directory after 1989; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The contractor who was assigned the job of printing five issues of the directory from 1988 to 92 failed to bring out the directory after 1989. As the two successful bidders selected from a fresh tender floated in 1993 also failed to deposit the security money, calling for a fresh tender is being processed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The security money of the contractor has been forfeited and matter has been referred to an arbitrator as per the terms of the contract.

#### US-Pak joint Exercise

767. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent Joint Exercise between US Commandos and Pak Special Services Group in the Mountainous terrain of Cherat region of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are aware that a month long joint training exercise was conducted from 6 January to 10 February, 1994 between the US Army Special Forces and the Pakistan Special Services Group in the Cherat region of the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. A similar exercise was also conducted in February 1993.

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on

India's security, including the on-going military cooperation between the US and Pakistan. Government take all necessary measures to safeguard the unity and territorial integrity of the nation.

[Translation]

### Bank Drafts

768. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of theft of bank drafts and cheques under posting in Ghaziabad have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A complaint dated 1.12.1992, about non delivery of a Registered letter No. 4416 dated 28.10.1992 reportedly containing a bank draft for Rs. 26000/-, was received from Shri Dinesh Kumar Sharma of Ghaziabad. Immediate departmental investigations were made which revealed that the said bank draft had been deposited in a fake Post Office Saving Bank Account at Ghaziabad Head Post Office. A F.I.R. was also lodged with the local police by Shri Dinesh Kumar Sharma. Further departmental enquiries revealed that 14 bank drafts and cheques received through Registered post at Ghaziabad Head Post Office for Rs. 1,42,700/- were stolen and deposited in 6 fake Post Office Savings Bank Accounts opened for the purpose. Rs. 18,000/-

were also found withdrawn from such accounts before their further operation was frozen on their detection. One stolen cheque for Rs. 50,000/- deposited in one of the fake accounts was dishonoured.

(c) A. F.I.R. was lodged by the Senior Postmaster, Ghaziabad Head Office on 10.11.1993 with the local police which arrested One Postal Assistant of Ghaziabad Head Post Office on 25.1.1994. He was immediately placed under suspension.

[English]

### Conversion of Exchanges in Maharashtra

769. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the national average in replacing mechanical exchanges with electronic ones upto the end of December, 1993;

(b) the average in the State of Maharashtra Telecommunications Circle in this regard during this period; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to convert the existing mechanical exchanges with electronic ones in the country and in Maharashtra Circle during the remaining part of the current year and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. of lines of mechanical exchanges replaced by electronic ones upto the end of December, 93 are 1714577. About 37.3% of the equipped capacity is of Electro-mechanical type.