

representation has been received from Dr. Hari Bhao Kulkarni of Janata Paksh (Party) on 26th August, 1978 to open Telegraph Branch at Satara City P.O. This has since been opened on 1-9-78 and the party has been informed on 25-9-78.

Transfer of Telephone Exchange Machinery from Kalyan to Sangli

3477. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalyan (District Thana, Maharashtra) Automatic Telephone Exchange Machinery has been transferred to Sangli in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, when and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1975-76, 3000 lines MAX-I equipment had been allotted for replacement of manual exchange and to meet the growth of demands at Kalyan.

Subsequently a review indicated that adequate equipment was not available to meet all the demands in Kalyan and other stations. It was decided to commission 2100 lines at Kalyan sufficient to meet the demands

upto the date of commissioning and to divert the remaining equipment to places like Sangli, Jalgaon, Ahmedabad and Nasik where large demands were pending and equipment was needed urgently. 2100 lines were commissioned at Kalyan in March, 1978 when the total demand there was 2003. To meet further demands at Kalyan expansion by 600 lines has been planned in 1979-80.

Rise in Labour Disputes

3478. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a sharp rise in labour disputes after 1976; and

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the post 1976 period;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the available provisional figures regarding number of disputes for the years 1976; 1977 and 1978 (January to August) as also the percentage increase in the number of disputes in 1977 over 1976, is attached. The percentage increase for 1978 has not been worked out as the information is available only for eight months.

Statement

Statement giving the number of industrial disputes during 1976, 1977 and 1978, (January to August as well as the percentage increase over 1976

Year	No. of disputes	Percentage increase over 1976
1976	1,459	..
1977(P)	3,117	+113.6
1978 (P) (Jan. to Aug.)	1,676	

(P) = Provisional and based on the returns received in Labour Bureau till 15th November, 1978 for 1978 and till 2nd November, 1978 for 1977