

(b) what are the plans of Government for their improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir. The functioning of telecommunication system in Kutch district (Gujarat) is generally satisfactory. Sometimes services are affected due to the theft of telephone wires.

(b) Following steps are being taken to improve the working of telephone services further in Kutch area:

(i) Replacement of Rajkot-Jamnagar Microwave system by stable wide band system.

(ii) Automatisation of Gandhidham and Bhuj telephone exchanges.

(iii) Replacement of copper wire by A.C.S.R. wire in Ahmedabad-Gandhidham Section.

(iv) Important telephone/telex connections are being checked daily.

(v) Maintenance routines and inspections have been tightened up.

Constitution of Central Press Accreditation Committee

2658. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when Government intend to constitute the Central Press Accreditation Committee; and

(b) the reasons for delay and whether some changes in its mode of constituting are contemplated; if so, what?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The entire question of constituting the Central Press Accreditation Committee is under examination.

News-item Captioned "Postal Services under Jeopardy"

2659. SHRI J. S. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the news-item appearing in the Maharashtra Times, Bombay dated 10th February, 1983 under the caption "Postal Services Under Jeopardy" and State:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal services in Maharashtra have been hampered for various reasons;

(b) if so, what the reasons are; and

(c) the extent to which these services are under strain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The postal services in some areas of Maharashtra Circle was affected due to the strike of a section of Employees of RMS 'L' Division Bhusaval from 3-2-83 to 10-2-1983.

(b) The employees went on strike in protest against the disciplinary action taken against some officials who had resorted to go-slow, work-to-rule etc. and disrupted the normal working.

(c) The situation is now normal.

Regional Electricity Authority—nature and Functions

2660. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajadhyaksha Committee set up by the Central Government has proposed setting up of the Regional Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the nature and functions of the proposed Authority;

(c) whether almost all States opposed the proposal at a recent Electricity Ministers' Conference as it would effect the generation and distribution authority of individual States; and