

their telephones and others are thinking to surrender ; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to remedy the situation and ensure that the telephone system functions properly ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) No case of deterioration telephone services at Khargone has come to notice ; though telephone services of some subscribers were effected due to cable breakdown on 19.7.84 at Khargone. However, representation from some subscribers of Bhikhangaon was received on 19.6.84 regarding delay in putting through trunk calls and conversion of existing MAX III exchange into Manual exchange.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such case has come to notice at Khargone, but in Bhikhangaon 61 telephone subscribers deposited their instruments on 26.6.84 and took them back on 4.7.84 on assurance given by the department about early conversion of existing MAX III exchange into Manual system.

(d) Conversion of Bhikhangaon MAX III exchange into Manual exchange has been sanctioned and needful will be done on the availability of the stores. Concerned officers have also been instructed to keep a special watch on the functioning of these exchanges.

Direct Telephone Line from Khargone to Kasravadh in Madhya Pradesh

3418 SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct telephone line from Khargone to Kasravadh in Madhya Pradesh with the result that the subscribers have been

facing great difficulty as they have to take connection on phone via Sandva which take a long time ; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to connect telephone lines direct from Khargone to Rasravadh and if not the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) No direct trunk circuit exists between Khargone and Kasravadh. Kasravadh small automatic exchange is parented to Dhamnodd which has a direct trunk circuit to Khargone. The trunk calls from Kasravadh small automatic exchange are not routed via Sandhwa, instead these are routed via its parent trunk centre viz. Dhamnodd.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to connect Khargone with Kasravadh with a direct telephone line as the same is not justified from trunk traffic point of view.

Industrial Disputes Raised by Registered Unions of Railways

3419. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instructions have been given by his Ministry to all Regional Labour Commissioners (C) not to accept any Industrial dispute raised by Registered Unions of Railways unless it is backed by proper strike notice ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) if not, the action taken against Assistant Labour Commissioners (c) for not accepting the disputes without strike notice ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) As there is a

Permanent Negotiating Machinery functioning in the Railways for redressal of grievances of railway employees, instructions have been issued that, in case of disputes relating to railway workmen, if no notice of strike in the prescribed form has been given, conciliation proceedings should not be initiated, unless the Railway Administration expresses its willingness for such proceedings.

(c) Does not arise.

Exchange of Newspapers/Periodicals with Pakistan

3420. SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has suggested to Pakistan that newspapers and periodicals should be exchanged on commercial basis ;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has accepted the proposal ; and

(c) if not, the main reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) During my talks with the Pakistani Minister for Information a number of items of mutual interest including the exchange of newspapers and periodicals between the two countries were discussed. In principle the exchange of newspapers and periodicals was agreed to but its mode, manner and timings are to be decided later on. India favours such an exchange on commercial basis.

Broadcasts by A.I.R

3421. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
SHRI SURAJ BHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether on May 22 last, while newspapers reported Sanjay Manch candidate, Shri Brijlal's victory from Malihabad, the A.I.R. and T.V. that day did not describe him as Manch candidate;

(b) whether on May 30, while T.V. broadcast Sikkim Governor, Talyarkhan's story of benefits of President's rule, it did not contact the deposed Chief Minister, Shri Bhandari (who was in Delhi) to elicit his views also;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on June 4 morning, A.I.R. did not report Editor Guild of India's President, Shri Prem Bhatia's statement that ban on Punjab news was a massive dose of censorship; and

(d) whether each one of these broadcasts is objective and fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. A candidate of a regional party not recognised by the Election Commission is described in AIR/TV news bulletins as an Independent. The Election Commission candidate also does the same.

(b) The news item on May 30, referred was carried by Doordarshan purely on its news value. The news format, is not the forum for presenting an item which may appear like a Debate. Hence this was not done.

(c) It is a fact that AIR could not include the item. This was due to paucity of time and the heavy newsfall on that day.