

Crisis in Communication System in Calcutta

3921 SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 255 on 24th July, 1984 regarding crisis in communication system due to heavy rains in Calcutta and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that still a large number of telephone subscribers have been facing problems for their dead telephones due to failure of Calcutta Telephones to restore subscribers phones even after three months from the date of last deluge;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the number of dead telephones in the exchanges viz., 41/42, 47/48, 45/49 and in other exchanges of Calcutta Telephones with details of each; and

(c) how many subscribers are to be refunded the rental amounts for the period their telephone remained dead beyond the usual period of restoration of fifteen days ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As on 10.8.1984 number of telephones continuing to be out of order exchange wise since deluge in early June are :—

Russia (41/42/43).....	157
Kalighat (47/48).....	110
Alipur (45/49).....	156
Jadavpur and Behala (72/77).....	49
South Suburban Exchanges (Narandapur, Amtola, Budge Budge and Baruipur).....	61
City Exchange (22/23/25/26/27...)	641
Entally(21/24/29).....	181
Burabazar (31/32/33/34).....	1085
Circus (43/44).....	155

Minicktola (35/36).....	57
Bagbazar (54/55).....	681
North Exchanges(52/58)	530
Dum Dum and Barasat (57 and 617).....	244
North Suburban Exchanges..... (Barrackpore, Bhatpara and Kalyani).....	60
Howrah Exchange (61/66/67/69).....	684
Serampore (62).....	12
Chinsurah Group of Exchange (Chinsurah Chandannagar and Triveni).....	10
Total :	4873

(c) Refund of Rental in these cases is not provided for under Departmental rules.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour in Slate Quarries Near Bandolamottu, Distt. Guntur (A P.)

3922. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether 400 bonded labourers employed by various contractors were rescued from slate quarries near Bandolamottu, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether they were rehabilitated in the slate quarries by removing contractors;

(c) whether bonded labourers formed a cooperative to mine the quarries and sought for lease;

(d) if so, whether lease would be granted in relaxation of the Forests (Preservation) Act;

(e) whether High Court of Andhra Pradesh appointed a Commissioner to take stock of the situation, if so, the salient features of Commissioner's report;

(f) whether Inspector of Labour, Guntur Andhra Pradesh has given any report on the working conditions of bonded labourers;

(g) if so, the main features of his report; and

(h) whether Government will evolve permanent measures for rehabilitation by granting mining lease to the labour cooperative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR) : (a) to (h) Necessary information has been called for from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and on receipt will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of Separate P and T Circle at Gauhati (Assam)

3923. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations to open a separate P&T Circle at Gauhati for the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The opening of a new Postal or Telecommunications circle depends on the administrative needs. No decision has yet been taken regarding opening of a separate Postal or Telecommunications Circle for the State of Assam

Pension for Pensioners Who Retired in Pakistan

3924. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether pensioners who retired in Pakistan and are receiving adhoc pension through Ministry of Rehabilitation are not being given the benefit of liberalised pension as allowed by the recent Supreme Court's decision to those Government Servants who retired before 31 March, 1979; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARAMA VIR) : (a) and (b) The pensioners who retired in Pakistan are receiving pension on humanitarian grounds under the ad-hoc payment scheme of the Department of Rehabilitation, pending verification of their claims by the Government of Pakistan. They are not entitled to the benefits of judgement of the Supreme Court as it is applicable to Central Government Pensioners who retired before 31.3.79 and are governed by Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, or Army Pension Regulations.

Tax on Advertisements In Newspapers and Journals

3925. SHRI ANANDA PA HAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to levy a tax on advertisements in newspaper and journals; and

(b) if so, whether such tax on advertisements would not adversely affect the economy of the newspapers and journals?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Linear Alkyl Benzene by I.P.C.L., New Delhi

3926. SHRI BHOLA RAUT Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No 10353 on 8th May, 1984 regarding supply of linear Alkyl Benzene by I.P.C.L., New Delhi and state :