

Upgradation of the Trichinopoly Station of All India Radio

1561. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Trichinopoly Station of the All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation for supply of defective Cross-Bar Telephone Exchange Equipment

1562. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the compensation claimed by Government from the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company for the supply of defective cross-bar telephone exchange equipment for Indian Telephones and what amount the Company has agreed to pay for the rectification of the equipment;

(b) by what time the programme for rectification would be completed and what would be its total costs; and

(c) whether any investigations have been made, Departmental or otherwise, of the circumstances under which contracts came to be placed with the B.T.M. for the supply of Cross-Bar equipments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) M/s. B.T.M. have supplied free of cost replacement materials for the defective components of the Cross-bar exchange equipment supplied by them. The Company has also agreed in principle to bear the cost of manpower required for executing the modification. However, as the work

is on, the final amount will be determined at the close of the exercise.

(b) The programme for rectification of Cross-bar Exchanges supplied by M/s. B.T.M. is estimated to take about one year in case of Delhi and Madras Exchanges and about 18 months in case of Bombay Exchanges. However, the nature of work which is to be carried out in working exchanges is very complex hence the time indicated is only approximate. The progress of the rectification is under constant review. The total cost is yet to be finalised as indicated in (a) above.

(c) No investigations have been made. Orders were placed with M/s. B.T.M. for the supply of cross-bar equipment, after due scrutiny of tenders invited on a global basis.

Unearthing a vice ring involving trafficking in Adivasi girls by Orissa Police

1563. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI:

SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organised vice ring involving trafficking in Adivasi girls has been unearthed by the Crime Branch of the Orissa Police while investigating case of missing girls from Gurmusaham and Badampahar tribal areas in Mayurbhanj District;

(b) if so, the facts revealed in the investigations and what was the *modus operandi* of the gang involved in this racket;

(c) whether the missing girls have since been recovered; and

(d) whether the culprits have been brought to book?