

(ख) उद्योग के लिए इसके महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या उपाय किए हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (ड० शंकर दयाल शर्मा) :

(क) पिपरी एक्सचेंज पिछले एक वर्ष में तकनीकी दोषों या अन्य किस कारण से कभी भी बन्द नहीं रहा।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

#### Decision of Railways to Slash Down Wagon Orders

1222. SHRI N. R. VEKARIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wagon Industry is crippled with the decision of the Railways to slash down wagon orders heavily for the coming year; and

(b) if so, whether any diversification programme will be taken up to keep the industry going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHR A C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The reported decision of the Railway Board to curtail the placement of orders on the wagon manufacturers would lead to the underutilisation of the existing installed capacity in this field. While diversification of the product-mix would be the obvious answer, there are practical difficulties for the primarily wagon-manufacturing units to switch over suddenly to different product-mix. This question has been receiving the serious consideration of the entire industry.

#### Raids on the Stores of Delhi Telephones

1223. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the raids on the various stores of the Delhi Telephones, telephone cables worth about Rs. 3 lakhs were reported to have been found short recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether any CBI investigation has been made and completed, and if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) to (c). During the course of a departmental check of store vouchers pertaining to underground telephone cables it was found that cables of various sizes had been drawn by the Installation Officers from the Delhi Telephones District Store Depot on various estimates but the same had not been fully accounted for by the Installation staff. On a preliminary departmental enquiry it was found that cables worth Rs. 5.5 lakhs approximately are involved in this. Three Gazetted Officers who were *prime facie* found involved in the case have been placed under suspension and the case has been handed over to the CBI for investigation. CBI investigation is in progress.

#### Launching of Indian Satellite from Soviet Union

1224. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preparations for launching India's first satellite from the Soviet Union have been completed; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be launched?