

under the provisions of these rules and orders?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** This is a bit of a hearsay. I have also heard about it. I do not know—once mention is made in the House that there is gold in the security deposits, vaults—it will still be there. I certainly follow the suggestion.

**Shri R. S. Pandey:** It had been decided that only 14 carat gold would be allowed to be used in ornaments. Now, the impression has been created, as it appeared in the press, that the hon. Minister of Finance is thinking of increasing it from 14 carat to 18 carat. I want to know whether it is true.

**Mr. Speaker:** The statement is going to be made just now.

#### Telephone Service in Balaghat

**S.N.Q. 17. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone service in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh has been stopped or otherwise adversely affected following the assault by some policemen on local telephone operators; and

(b) if so, the measures taken or being taken to restore normalcy?

**The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) Yes. The telephone exchange at Balaghat had to be closed at about 1100 hrs. on 13-9-1963 but normalcy was restored by the evening on the same date.

(b) The matter was taken up promptly with the State Government and high officials of the Police Department who have given assurance that the P. & T. staff can carry on their normal work without any fear. On the spot investigation by a senior officer of the P. & T. Department was also carried out at the earliest opportunity.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** If I heard the Minister aright, there was a considerable time-lag between the occurrence of the incident and the time when the telephone service was set right. Is the House to understand that other communications were also disrupted and that intimation about the incident—the assault by the policemen—was received here very late by the P. & T. authorities and, if so, what are the reasons for that delay in communication?

**Shri Bhagavati:** There was not much delay. The incident occurred on 12-9-1963 after 19.13 hours. Even after the reported assault on an operator the exchange worked the whole night. In the morning also the operators came to the Exchange. Again there was some disturbance in the morning at about 10.35 hours. Then the operators left the exchange. From Gondia exchange some operators were then brought to this place and the exchange was put to work at about 15.35 hours on the same day i.e. the 13th.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** What exactly were the details of this assault incident, and has the State Government ordered a regular investigation or enquiring into this matter?

**Shri Bhagavati:** A magistrate has been appointed by the Commissioner of Jabalpur division to investigate into this matter. He has already investigated into this case on the 18th and completed the enquiry on the 19th.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Has the report been received?

**Shri Bhagavati:** The report has not yet been submitted.

**Shri Daji:** Has the Government ascertained the causes of this incident and are steps being taken to see that such incidents do not recur again?

**Shri Bhagavati:** The whole thing was investigated into, and when we get the report from the magistrate then only we can say.