

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question. No commentary, please.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, the question is regarding the estimated cost and the benefit expected to accrue from the flood control cum irrigation cum power generation project? You are ignoring that. My first question was whether there is any substance in the complaint made by Nepal. There are rumours in Nepal that secret orders were given to block the embankment constructed for the Kamla till Murchaiya. In this situation both India and Nepal are at a disadvantage. Sir, Nepal's complaint is not baseless. I think this deserves a discussion at the political level but there is no time to do that now. I can give an example to substantiate the complaint made by Nepal.

MR. SPEAKER: Now this is turning into a speech.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will there be a discussion at the political level or not? Secondly, what will be the benefits of the multipurpose project? Kindly reply to the main question.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, only when there is agreement on certain basic issues like the amount of water to be used, the sharing of the power and the area of land required can we estimate the cost...*(Interruptions)*...the two countries are not able to arrive at a consensus because there is difference of opinion regarding the basis for estimating the cost and profit. Nothing can be done unless there is agreement on basic issues.

Regarding the secret order mentioned by the hon. Member, no such orders were issued from our side. Everything was done after taking both countries into confidence.

In reply to the third question I would like to say that efforts are on

to find a political solution to this problem.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, Saharsa and Nirmali lie on the Indo-Nepal border. May I know from the hon. Minister whether Nepal clearly asked India during the Indo-Nepal talks to give it the cost of power generation with which it is ready to construct the dam.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: A number of points were raised by Nepal. Later on they changed their stand. I shall look into what the hon. Member has said regarding this matter. If both the countries can reach an agreement we shall make efforts to implement it immediately.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchange at Jalpaiguri

*249. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the manually operated telephone exchange at Jalpaiguri town in West Bengal by a modern electronic exchange with indigenous equipments of ILT 2048 by the end of 1991;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be operative?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Manually operated exchange at Jalpaiguri is planned to be replaced by a modern electronic exchange with indigenous equipment of ILT-2048 during 1991-92.

(b) The exchange building has been constructed. Out-door plant is being upgraded. Instructions have been issued for supply of the equipment on top priority.

(c) As in (a) above.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
I am satisfied with the answer to the question given by the hon. Minister. Hoping the hon. Minister will keep his word I like to put another question.

Are there any more schemes of this kind in the various districts of West Bengal and, if so, please give me details.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):
Sir, there is a continuous scheme to modernise the Telecommunication System in the country. We have the plan chalked out for the Eighth Five Year Plan and we will find out whether we can do it with the Electronic Exchange or whatever modern equipment is necessary at that place.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
Now I put my next question. It is found that ghost calls—ISD and STD are recorded in many telephone numbers. I have got my record in my pocket. Is there any scheme chalked out by the Government to curb this problem? Here, I would like to state that 20,000—30,000 such calls have been recorded in telephone number 3/82514, Delhi during two-three/months. It has already been reported to the office. It is a funny thing because during this period of two/three months the receiver was kept under lock and key. I would, therefore, request the Minister to explain.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Some such problems have been projected in various forums. Because of this problem, I am told that some excess billing is also done. We are reviewing all these things to find out whether we can find a solution to this problem whereby it could be traced immediately. We have given this task to our technicians and technical people. We are looking into this matter.

Mining Lease for Soap Stones and Bauxite

*250. **SHRI KARIYA MUNDA:**
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the companies which are holding mining lease for soap stones and bauxite in different parts of the country; and

(b) whether the Government propose to review the policy of granting mining lease in the near future?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Mining leases are granted to individuals, partnership firms as well as Companies. As on 1-1-90 the total number of mining lease holders in the country for soap stone was 648 and for bauxite was 381.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated—"No". May be he is not aware that mines and mineral deposits exist in forests. The contractors cut down the forests for mining purposes. With the result heavy damage is done to environment and forests in that area. It also effects the winds and the monsoon. He has said that no change will be brought about in the policy. May be he is not aware of the fact that the area where soap stone deposits exist.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said "No" straightway. It should have been in his knowledge that the contractors leave the dug up earth with the result water is filled in the fields when it rains. It is very bad from many angles. Therefore, with a view to protecting the environment and forests, whether any change will be brought about in the