

Fire at MTNL Office, Delhi

298. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the enquiry conducted into the sabotage of the devastating fire at Chandralok building in the capital on June 17, 1997 top one and half floor occupied by the MTNL;

(b) the nature of the records destroyed in this fire and the steps taken to reconstruct them;

(c) the preventive measures taken to check the fire in future;

(d) whether papers containing 30 lakh tender scam and being probed by CBI were also destroyed in the fire; and

(e) if so, the disciplinary action taken against the delinquent officials of the MTNL, who had been named by the CBI and what would be the fate of enquiry now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the enquiry is not yet completed.

(b) The office records of the Chief Engineer (BW), superintending Engineer Civil (South), Superintending Engineer Civil (Central), Superintending Engineer (Elect.), Senior Architect, Chief Accounts Officer (BW) and Executive Engineer (Elect) Central have been destroyed. Steps are being taken to reconstruct the files and other records by collecting copies from other offices.

(c) Chandralok building is NDMC building, MTNL's departmental buildings have been inspected by Senior Officers and Fire Safety measures are being taken in the building as per the fire protection safety requirements.

(d) No, Sir. The concerned documents required by the CBI had been seized by them and the same are under their charge.

(e) The case is still under investigation.

[Translation]

STD/ISD/PCO in Madhya Pradesh

299. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister

of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO installed and working properly in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths not working properly, district-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending in this regard, district-wise;

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared and the time by which all the village Panchyats are likely to be provided telephone facility;

(e) the number of telephone connections which are out of order in the State and the steps taken by the Government to repair them and the time by which these connections are likely to be repaired; and

(f) the details thereof, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Nil

(c) The information is given in the attached Statement.

(d) The pending applications are likely to be cleared progressively by March, 98. All the village panchayats are likely to be provided telephone facilities by the year 2000.

(e) and (f) By and large telephone connections are working satisfactorily. As and when any telephone is reported faulty it is repaired at the earliest possible.

Statement		
Telecom District (SSA)	STD PCOs Installed (a)	No. of application pending (c)
1	2	3
1. Bhopal	1189	172
2. Indore	1744	-
3. Jabalpur	1272	106
4. Gwalior	891	11
5. Raipur	816	43

1	2	3
6. Bilaspur	336	-
7. Ujjain	315	-
8. Mandsaur	301	05
9. Khargone	214	67
10. Morena	156	82
11. Khandwa	285	03
12. Hoshangabad	230	10
13. Durg	431	-
14. Ratlam	349	11
15. Dhar	162	12
16. Sagar	234	50
17. Vidisha	154	25
18. Shajapur	91	14
19. Rajgarh	92	17
20. Dewas	162	-
21. Chhattarpur	251	156
22. Guna	118	20
23. Shivpuri	109	25
24. Balaghat	139	18
25. Narsinghpur	177	28
26. Chhindwara	172	18
27. Betul	94	04
28. Shahdol	197	-
29. Raigarh	99	-
30. Satna	262	10
31. Rewa	239	-
32. Jagdalpur	85	49

[English]

**Construction of Dancing Musical Fountain
in Bangalore**

300. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Railways and

its associates for the construction of dancing musical fountain in Bangalore;

(b) whether the above fountain is under the control of Railways;

(c) if not, whether the Government are aware that the Government of Karnataka has been collecting entrance fee from the public in view the dancing musical fountain;

(d) if so, whether the Railways are likely to get its share from the entrance fee; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Railways have not made any investment on the dancing fountain at Bangalore.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Menace of Touts

301. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Touts business continues unabated" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 5th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railway Administration to check the menace of touts and help the poor passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item has highlighted the operation of touts in cornering of reserved accommodation in trains originating from Delhi and selling the same at premium.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. The drives against touts were intensified and during April to June, 1997, 174 touts were apprehended by Northern Railway. Action has been taken against them under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989. Railway staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.