

## LOK SABHA

—  
 Thursday, November 23, 1978/Agrahayana 2, 1900 (Saka)  
 —

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri S. Balasubramaniam, who was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during the years 1952—57 representing Madurai constituency of the erstwhile Madras State.

Shri Balasubramaniam was closely associated with the Adult Education Programme and served as General Secretary, District Adult Education Committee, Madurai. A devoted social worker, he worked tirelessly for the uplift of Harijans and was a Member of the Central Advisory Board of Harijan Welfare. He served the people of his State in various capacities such as Vice-President, Shri Thyaga Brahma Bhakta Jana Sabha, Madurai, in 1947, and President of Agricultural Cooperative Bank. He passed away at Madurai on 18th November, 1978.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family. The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

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## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Breakdown of Telephonic Communications in Calcutta

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\*61. SHRI RUDOLPH RODRIGUES:  
 PROF. SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the breakdown in telephonic communications in several parts of Calcutta as a result of the recent floods in the city; and

(b) what steps have been taken to restore the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir, approximately 33,000 local lines went out of order during the floods.

(b) (1) Repair to external plants which were damaged due to floods was undertaken immediately after the floods, on a very urgent basis.

(2) A separate task force was set up for tackling the faults in Calcutta East—“35”/“36” exchanges where flooding of cable chambers caused break-down of primary cables affecting the entire telephone network.

(3) In all the areas, priority for restoration was given to all the essential services like Ministers, senior government officers, Police, fire-brigade, Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Calcutta Suburban Transport Corporation, State Electricity Board, Railways, Ambulance, Press etc.