

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We donot want to copy all that is happening abroad but we want to take in and adopt things which would really be relevant to our own needs and requirements. But so far as picture phone is concerned, even in USA there has been no significant development and even the British telecom do not intend introducing it till 21st century. So, it is not correct to say that even in other countries they have introduced it on an experimental basis on commercial lines. It has not yet been introduced and I do not think we should like to go into this.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : It is very much relevant now. We are taking India into 21st Century and I do not know why the Minister is fighting shy of it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Well, Sir, it is true, but as I said, we do not want to copy everything that is happening in the West or abroad. We want to go into the 21st century but in a way that suits our local requirements. So far as other aspects of tele-communications development is concerned, we are very much ahead of many other countries and we will continue to do so. But in the frill areas like this, which we do not think is really very necessary and important for the development of telecommunications, we would go very slowly.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister does not want to have a long jump, he wants to go slow and steady.

Setting up of Indo-French Joint Commission for Oil and Gas Development

*835. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Indo-French Joint Commission for oil and gas development in the country;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA**) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any talks were held in this regard between India and France, and if so, when ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, there is collaboration between India and France in the field of Petroleum and this collaboration is in progress at various levels. But so far as the question of the Hon. Member regarding Indo-French Joint Commission is concerned, there is no proposal to set up such a commission. So far as collaboration is concerned, it covers a wide area and we have collaboration with many companies in this field. Besides, during the visit of our late Prime Minister to France in November, 1981, Memorandum of Undertaking, embodying promotion of cooperation in different fields, was signed in four cases. These included the field of energy and the field of hydro-carbons. Therefore, our efforts to increase collaboration with France continue.

[English]

Public Call Offices in Calcutta

*836. **SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present number of Public Call Offices (PCOs) in Calcutta as compared to the number of PCOs in Bombay, Madras and New Delhi;

(b) the reasons why Calcutta is lagging behind other cities in the matter; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken/proposed to increase the number of Public Call Offices in Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of Public Telephones (PCOs) in Calcutta Telephone system are 960 as compared to 5695, 876 and 4088 in Bombay, Madras and Delhi respectively as on 31.3.1985.

(b) While a large number of Departmental Public telephones have been opened at places which are frequently visited by general public and the telephone instrument is secure, there is inadequate demand from public for private guaranteed public telephones in Calcutta.

(c) Attempts are being made by Calcutta telephone authorities to popularise the private guaranteed public telephones.

SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : According to the statement of the Hon. Minister the number of PCOs in Calcutta is only 960 whereas in Bombay it is 5,695, in Madras it is 876 and in Delhi it is 4,088. As far as I remember according to the reports regarding the State capitals in 1981-82 the number of PCOs is as follows : Calcutta—892, Madras 2,450, Bombay 3,197. From the statement of the Minister it is clear that the number of new PCOs set up during the last four years is as follows : Calcutta 68 and Bombay 1,498. The population of Bombay and Calcutta is almost equal. For Bombay population is 82,27,332 and that of Calcutta is 82,91,000. This shows the number of PCOs has no relation with the size of the population of the cities. It is a clear case of discrimination and injustice against Calcutta in the matter of providing telephone facilities. The information supplied by the Minister that in Calcutta the demand is inadequate is not a correct information. This is inaccurate and wrong information supplied to the Hon. Minister by the Officers there. So, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to inform as to when proper justice will be done to Calcutta in the matter of PCO facilities ?

I would also like to know what percentage of PCOs are in working order in Calcutta and in other cities. And thirdly,...

MR. SPEAKER : I have said time and again not to do this thing. Again and again, the Hon. Members do the same thing.

SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : This is one supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : It should not be a catalogue. He will reply only one supplementary. There should not be (a), (b), (c), (d), and so on.

SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : It is a question regarding justice to Calcutta.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. You can ask something like that, but this is not the way to put a supplementary.

SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : All right. I am asking one supplementary.

Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to inform as to when proper justice will be done regarding Calcutta in the matter of PCO facilities ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, I had occasion to mention in this House that we are paying special attention to Calcutta so far as development of tele-communication facilities are concerned. But as regards the PCOs., the numbers that I have given are really not as much as we wish it. In my answer itself I have given the reasons that there is inadequate demand from public for telephones in Calcutta. I have enquired from them if there are any pending requests or further applications. There are none. I have also enquired whether public places like railway stations or airports are properly served. They are very properly served. Sealdah has a number of them, Howrah station has a number of them, the airport has a number of public call offices, and if the Hon. Member can suggest some persons who fall within our category, who want PCOs, we will consider them.

AN HON. MEMBER : The Minister of Justice !

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that most of the PCOs in Calcutta, at least half of them in Howrah, I know, remain always out of order because of faulty machines and whenever we put coins, the coins will not come

out and the call also will not be maturing. (*Interruptions*). Will the Minister examine the functioning of this? And since the Minister has stated that public demands are met, is the Minister aware of the fact that the Calcutta Stadium is the biggest in Asia and the Calcutta Football ground will remain busy in the entire period, there are no PCOs there and whoever goes there comes out disappointed? Will he enquire about it and instal PCOs there.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Any time the Stadium authorities or any responsible authorities who can take care of our instrument and want it, we will give it to them.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Even the coin which is put in the PCO machine is not coming out.

MR. SPEAKER : If it does not come out, you will have less burden!

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Hon. Member wanted to know in Howrah which happens to be constantly using PCOs how many of them are out of order. He knows well that they are out of order sometimes. There are a variety of reasons for that. (*Interruptions*). Sometimes only. They are tampered. We admit they are tampered by people and if you happen to see a news item today in the *Times of India* which reproduces from the *London Times*, it says, the same problem obtains in London. Thousands of them... (*Interruptions*). The level of mischief-makers in Howrah is not much higher than in London. But the point is that because we have not come to a system where we can have fool-proof, tamper-proof Public Call Offices which are attended, we put our research people on this and they are attending.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is a global phenomenon.

SHRI BHAGAWAT JHA AZAD : It is a Commonwealth phenomenon.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is a global phenomenon.

Production of Maruti Cars

*837. **SHRI DINESH SINGH :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Maruti Deluxe Cars and Maruti Ordinary Cars in the total production of Maruti Cars;

(b) whether there is an over production of Maruti Deluxe Cars which are not being lifted by purchasers; and

(c) what is the break up of the cost of extra fittings in Maruti Deluxe Car over that of Maruti Ordinary Car?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Percentage of Deluxe and Standard Maruti Cars in the total car production upto 30-4-1985 was approximately 22 and 78 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It will not be in the commercial interest of the company to disclose this information.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not my custom to try to disprove Ministers in the House, but for the Minister's benefit I think it would be useful for him to enquire from the factory as to how many offers of Deluxe Cars were made to people and how many have been turned down. If he wishes, I will send him some letters myself.

MR. SPEAKER : Wouldn't they automatically cease production of the thing which is redundant?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : No, Sir, it is not that. They don't do this because there is a demand and it is taken up by those who may not have registered and this is where the unfortunate practice of blackmarketing comes in.

Secondly, Sir, it is said that it is not in the commercial interest of the company to disclose the break-up. There is the cost of the ordinary car. And one knows the cost of