

electoral programme, as people do not have any say in respect of official political parties, will the Ministry, keeping in view of their earlier announcement that they will come out very soon with the electoral reforms programme, to make a specific study case so far as West Bengal is concerned ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is Mr. Munsii preparing a ground for the next elections ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: The fact remains that the summary revision which begins from September 1, nobody is very sure whether the names will be admitted, because the much politicised State machinery is indulging—and now the Bangladeshi infiltrators are getting contracts through local Panchayats—that we will give you ration cards for the minors and we will fill up the electoral rolls and I myself complained the four or five District Magistrates in my recent tours and they say that we are helpless, and you talk to the local party of the Left Front. How can you ensure peaceful elections based on this method in West Bengal ? Will you take up the matter with the Election Commission ? That I want to know.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : All though the question is not related to the original question, but this is an allegation of the hon. Member. We will get it examined through the Election Commission. There are sure complaints, when the Elections are there, almost from everywhere, but I am proud to say that the Election machinery in the country at the time functions as far as possible independently and that is how there has been fair elections in the country. If there are any specific allegations, we can always get them examined.

International STD Services in Kerala

*375. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries ;

(b) whether he has received representations from Kerala requesting for including more places in the State on the International STD network ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries are listed in the statement given below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This does not apply in view of (b).

(d) Government have already planned to provide progressively International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) facilities to all stations available on National Subscriber Dialling (NSD) Network. The work on this scheme has already commenced.

Statement

Cities in India having STD facilities to foreign countries.

1. Bombay
2. Delhi
3. Calcutta
4. Madras
5. Gurgaon
6. Agra
7. Saharanpur
8. Muzaffarnagar
9. Meerut
10. Panjim
11. Kalyan
12. Chowdwar
13. Rohtak
14. Hissar
15. Bhiwani

16. Sonapat
17. Dehradun
18. Kharagpur
19. Burdwan
20. Krishnagar
21. Midnapore
22. Gangtok
23. Haldia
24. Bangalore
25. Bantwal
26. Bellary
27. Bhadravathi
28. Chitradurga
29. Davangere
30. Harihar
31. Hassan
32. Krishnapura
33. Karwar
34. Madikere
35. Mangalore
36. Mandya
37. Panambur
38. Raichur
39. Puttur
40. Sirsi
41. Shimoga
42. Tumkur
43. Udupi
44. Ullal
45. Whitefield
46. Pondicherry
47. Kancheepuram
48. Chingleput
49. Tirrutani

50. Villupuram
51. Mahabalipuram
52. Kalpakkam
53. Ranipet
54. Vaniyambadi
55. Ambur
56. Chidambaram
57. Arakkonam
58. Nagapattinam
59. Mannargudi
60. Neyveli
61. Mayiladuthurai
62. Tiruvarur
63. Tiruvannamalai
64. Cuddalore
65. Tirupathi
66. Tirumala
67. Chittoor
68. Nellore
69. Gudur
70. Renigunta
71. Ludhiana
72. Trivandrum
73. Hyderabad
74. Hospet
75. Morar
76. Rewari
77. Bidar
78. Gulbarga
79. Kosikalan
80. Ghaziabad
81. Sangareddy
82. Warangal
83. Pattencheru

84. Lingappalli
85. Adilabad
86. Karimnagar
87. Khammam
88. Nalgonda
89. Kurnool
90. Anantapur
91. Guntakal
92. Adoni
93. Cuddapah
94. Mahboobnagar
95. Nandyal
96. Pradattur
97. Alyani
98. Chinsurah
99. Treveni
100. Barasat
101. Bhatpara
102. Budge-Budge
103. Uluberia
104. Hapur
105. Kottayam
106. Quilon
107. Nayyattinkara
108. Kottarakara
109. Tiruvelia
110. Chengannur
111. Alleppey
112. Palai
113. Kundara
114. Adoor
115. Chingavam
116. Attingal
117. Kothamangalam

118. Moovathupuzha
119. Perambavoor
120. Thodupuzha
121. Gandhinagar
122. Kanjikuzhi
123. Shertalai
124. Mayavaram
125. Meroara
126. Hanamkonda
127. Hindupur
128. Kazipeth, and
129. Nizamabad

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Minister has given a list of cities having STD facilities, which are connected to foreign countries. But it remains a fact that even today some of the district headquarters are not connected to national STD network ; e.g. my own district Pattanamthitta is not connected to national STD network. I am told that it is because some equipment has not been sanctioned by your Department. I would like to know what are the criteria for providing STD connections to a particular city ; and by what time all the district headquarters including my district will be connected to national STD network, including my district, and to the international network.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is true that there are some district headquarters which are not on the national STD. We have given this matter consideration and top priority ; and we propose to connect, in the 7th Plan, all district headquarters on the national STD.

As regards Kerala, it is much better situated than many other States, and the hon. Minister's district headquarters would be connected much before the end of the 7th Plan.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You have only to sanction an equipment. Work is

already completed. You have only to sanction an equipment for my district. Please do that. That is my request. Only the machinery is to be sanctioned. That The Minister can do.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a request, and not a question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : My second supplementary is : you have said that there are no representations for connecting more cities with international network. But there are a number of complaints from the Indians working in Gulf countries that they can call India, but their parents cannot call back to gulf from India. This is especially so from Kerala. So, I would like to know whether considering the fact that in Gulf countries a large number of Keralites are working, you will connect all the STD stations in Kerala to Gulf capitals, so that they can make calls from Gulf, and back.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We are having a very ambitious programme of bringing Indian cities on the ISD. In November 1985, i.e. some months back, only four cities viz. Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras were on the ISD. But in the last few months, we have added a large number of them ; and today, as the statement says, there 129 cities in our country which are on the International Subscriber Dialling. There are 13 countries with which we have ISD. It is true there are some countries which can directly dial us, but we cannot. United States is one example. We are connecting United States on this 14th August itself. In Gulf, there are some countries which can dial us direct, but we cannot dial them directly through STD. We are going into this. We are having some more equipmgt installed ; and after enough capacity is created in our international exchanges, that problem would also be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figure given by the hon. Minister

in the statement that 129 countries have been linked through S.T.D. facility is indeed encouraging. He is working hard to set right the telephone system and for that I must congratulate Shri Mirdhaji. But, at the same time, I would say that whenever we want to put through a local call—for him it is his P.A. who gets the line for him but we have to dial ourselves—we find that many wrong lines get connected and some one from the other end would say angerily 'put down the receiver'. In this connection I would like to know whether the Government have any report about the working of telephones in the country ? Also, is he going to give something to Andhra Pradesh or not ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, we are making all efforts to improve telephone service in Andhra Pradesh. Hyderabad is the Capital of the State and is a very good city. We are installing a number of electronic exchanges in Andhra Pradesh. So far as P.C.Os. are concerned, almost all places in Andhra Pradesh have got this facility and I would like to assure the hon. Minister that we shall pay special attention to Andhra Pradesh in future also.

[English]

SHRI I. RAMA RAI : One more district headquarters city has been denied of STD facility due to delay in land acquisition. Will the Minister consider of providing STD facilities in a rented building for the time being ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This will be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may also ask about Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER : We will have to spend money for that.

[English]

The Question Hour is over.