

**Waiting List for Telephone Connections  
in Bombay**

\*822. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Bombay;

(b) at what rate per month the waiting list is being cleared;

(c) the average number of fresh registration per month;

(d) whether any major step is contemplated whereby at least the ordinary applicants can get the telephone in Bombay in one year; and

(e) if so, the details of the measures contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below :

**Statement**

The total number of applicants waiting for provision of telephone connections in Bombay as on 31st March, 1988 was 2,05,266.

New telephone connections are provided on the basis of expansion of exchange equipments and external plant. Connections provided in each month vary. 58,721 and 57,798 new connections respectively were provided during 1986-87 and 1987-88.

On an average about 5000 fresh registrations per month are received for provision of telephone connections.

A comprehensive expansion programme has been prepared by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and efforts are being made to implement this programme. This however, depends on the availability of financial resources and equipments. The target is to clear on an average the waiting list upto 30.9.1986 by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan.

During 1988-89, 70,000 connections are proposed to be provided.

**[Translation]**

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bombay is not only the capital of Maharashtra but the economic capital of the whole country.

The importance of telephones have increased even more in the modern science age. In this context, will the Government permit the Telematics system (C-Dot) which is recommended by the Technology Mission of the Central Government to be installed in the private sector and public sector organisations like Railways, banks, dairy co-operatives etc. in Bombay ? If so, how long will it take ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This new system cannot be installed in big cities at present. When the infrastructure for setting up big telephone exchanges is developed, we will consider it for big cities. But so far as the waiting lists in the Manager Telephone Nigam in Bombay and Delhi is concerned, we are planning to start a Telephone Bureau System and we also want to increase the number of public telephone booths which will be manned by handicapped persons in order to provide maximum telephone facilities to the people. As regards, providing telephone connections to the big housing societies, they will have to instal their own P.A.B. X system and we will give them required connections. This is how we have envisaged to provide maximum facilities to the people. Regarding the existing waiting list which has over 2 lakhs applications pending, I would like to point out that we receive 5,000 fresh registrations every month. We feel that unless technological advances are used on a large scale, it is not possible to clear the waiting list. But we are making every effort in this regard. We also propose to introduce "Instant Telephone" System. There are many rich businessmen who are ready to deposit advance. We are making provision for granting immediate connection or a deposit of Rs. 50,000. With this advance money, we will be able to install additional PABX.....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : If you ask for Re. 1 lakh, you could do it even faster.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It will enable us to open more public call booths.....

(*Interruptions*). If anyone is prepared to give Re. 1 lakh we shall accept it. We are trying to extract more money from the rich so that we can spend it for the welfare of the poor.....(*Interruptions*). These communists only talk, they don't do any work.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you state the details of the Car Telephone Facility.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have not considered it so far.

[*English*]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : After the formation of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, it was thought that there will be improvement in the telephone system in Bombay and Delhi. But we see no improvement on record. There is only improvement in the salary bills of the officials. The expenses of the Telephone Nigam have increased.

Earlier, whatever revenue was being collected from Bombay and Delhi, it was being used for development in the rural areas. But now it is being blocked in this Corporation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken for starting cellular radio telephone system in Bombay on experimental basis or on a permanent basis. What has happened to that proposal ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The cellular telephone system is still under consideration. We have not given up the idea. We are trying to see how useful it will be for the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, telephone facilities are more available in the urban areas and their maintenance is better as compared to the rural areas. In Maharashtra, there are areas particularly, villages where one cannot get a telephone call through. Even such urgent messages as of death cannot reach there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any new schemes for these areas ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our main emphasis is on the rural areas. The basic intention behind the radio telephone and the C-Dot system is to provide telephone facilities to the rural areas. We have envisaged to provide maximum telephone facilities to the villages through these systems.

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, the part (d) of the question is specific :

“whether any major step is contemplated whereby at least the ordinary applicants can get the telephone in Bombay in one year;”

What is the Minister's reply to this stipulation period of one year for ordinary people ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have already replied to it. Telephone on-asking scheme is, those who deposit Rs. 50,000 will get telephone on asking.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Telephone for ordinary applicant ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : He may also be ordinary. (*Interruptions*).

#### Setting up of Industries in Kerala

\*823. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any specific proposals for setting up any industries in Kerala to Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) . During the calendar years 1985 to 1988 (upto 31.3.1988), 45 Industrial Licence applications from various State Government Undertakings/Corporations in Kerala were received for setting up industries in the State. Out of these, 24