

two tidal power projects are situated in the Kutch and Cambay. The techno-economic feasibility report is being processed and after that it will be considered for taking the investment decision. After the techno-economic clearance the next phase involving the detailing of the design and construction figures will be taken up. It will take two years. The project can be taken up after all these issues are completed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTT-AMBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the projects remain on paper only. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of projects, which have been processed and the time by which their construction work would be started ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has told that it is in process.

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTT-AMBHAI PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the time by which the construction work of those projects, which have been processed, will be started ?

[English]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Sir, when the techno-economic feasibility report will be submitted, the Government will send it for financial clearance.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be a milestone if in our country we can get this type of tidal power project. As far as my knowledge goes, Dr. Chughalingam, in Tamil Nadu Electricity Board first started the pilot plant there. I would like to know what is the present position. Whether the Ministry has cleared any pilot plant there ? If so, what is the name of the project; what is the design parameter and what are the chemicals required for this tidal power project ? Whether the pilot plant study has already been made ? Whether as per the techno-economic feasibility report the money part is comparable to thermal power generation

and hydro-electric generation ? This fact should be cleared first and then only we can implement this project on the priority basis.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : The Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Khambal (Cambay) on the Western Coast in Gujarat and Delta of Ganga in Sunderbans in West Bengal on the Eastern Coast have been identified as the potential sites worthy of being considered for tidal power development. A major step towards quantifying the overall possibilities of tidal power in India was taken up...

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Has any Pilot Plan been done in India or not, whether the design parameter has been satisfactory and whether chemical ingredient which is required has been done because our geo-political condition is different ?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : No...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not being done.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Sir, nothing has been done.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can assure him that nothing will be done!

[Translation]

Telephone system in Delhi

*272. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(A) whether planning of telephone system in Delhi is satisfactory;

(b) if so the reasons for which the waiting lists for telephones in some areas date back to 2-4 years whereas the waiting lists in some other areas have requests pending for 10-15 years; and

(c) the measures being undertaken to

improve the planning of telephone system in Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) and (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

In Delhi, the longest waiting period is about 9 years in the General category and that too in a small Pocket namely Shahadra. Disparity in clearance of waiting list in various areas occur due to limited availability of equipments and external plant and shortage of investible resources.

In any multi-exchange area like Delhi, it is always possible, due to the above reasons, that the clearance dates vary significantly from one Exchange to another. As the telephone Exchanges are always installed in large units (usually units of 10,000 lines) it is possible that the clearance dates get a quantum jump in some areas. Efforts are always made to equalise the waiting list in all areas by way of area transfer from one exchange to another but this is to be done in a limited way to avoid frequent number changes.

Delhi Telephones has drawn up a developmental plan so as to reduce the waiting period in almost all areas to within 3 1/2 (3½) years by the end of 7th plan and further to one year progressively by the end of 8th Plan, subject to availability of material and financial resources.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position in case of telephones in Delhi is the same as is in regard to the reply given by the hon. Minister. The only difference is that the advertisement in the newspapers showed the waiting list of 14-15 years but now

the waiting period has been reduced to 9 years ever since the hon. Minister has taken over the charge. This is a big difference.

The position in case of telephones in Delhi is quite bad and I do not think any proper planning has been done to improve the telephone system. In one area, the waiting period is 15 years, in another area, it is only 2 years and in some other area telephones are supplied currently. I do not understand this planning of yours. In Connaught Place and Tis Hazari telephones are being provided against a waiting list of only one year whereas in Shahadra the waiting list is of 15 years, in Radhu Palace exchange area it is of 8-9 years and in Delhi Gate area it is of 10 years. Such a planning is beyond my comprehension. I want to know as to how will you bring about co-ordination between various areas in regard to the waiting period. In case there is a difference it should not be more than 6 months to 1 year.

You have said in your reply that it is due to limited availability of equipments and external plant and shortage of resources but you are sanctioning telephone connections without any delay in the areas where there is no shortage in your plan. What is the reason that the waiting list in Trans-Yamuna areas is of 9 years? I want to know the difficulty being experienced in case of your planning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : It is true that the position in every area is different. The areas where the capacity of the exchange is more, the problem is not serious but the areas where the demand of people has increased with the increase in population and the capacity of the exchange is less, are facing this problem. There are certain such areas where there is a possibility of a long delay.

The waiting list for telephones date back 20 years when this Corporation was established and after that the waiting period has now been reduced to 9 years. We are trying to reduce it further to

three-and-a-half years by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and to one year by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. We are trying to increase the capacity of the exchange where it is less and we are also making attempts to change the old exchanges which are not in good working conditions.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I am unable to understand the reply. I want to know whether you have fixed the responsibility of any officer to see as to how Delhi should be divided. It is due to lack of planning that at present the waiting list in one part dates back 20 years while in some other part it is of one year only.

MR. SPEAKER : He has given its reply.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has said that the population is increasing.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : It is not at all connected with the increase in population. My second question is that you are making attempts to reduce this waiting period to three and a half years during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The fact is that more than half the period of the Seventh Plan is already over and on y one year-and-a-half is left now. I, therefore, want to know as to how will you reduce the waiting period to three-and-a-half years in the rest of the one year-and-a-half when the waiting list is running for a period of 10 years ?

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, we are laying some new lines, increasing the capacity and setting up some new exchanges. Our present plan is worth Rs. 55 lakhs. We will increase it further if we get the equipment. We will try to increase it more and more.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware that there are many complaints that in Delhi Telephones, the telephone lines sometimes are actually connected in an

unauthorised manner by some rich people, may be by industrial houses and which many times comes to the poor MPs. Those who are here—many of them including myself—have experienced this problem. I would like to know whether the Minister will go into this kind of complaint and investigate and put a stop to this kind of unauthorised telephoning by the industrial houses and other rich people through dubious means ?

[Translation]

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, we have an express telephone service under which telephones are provided there and then on payment of Rs. 30,000. Such people who...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. SPEAKER : She is not asking for a telephone, she is complaining.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, we have no information regarding the unauthorised telephone connections. We will get it investigated if such a complaint is received ?

MR. SPEAKER : She is asking as to what steps do you take in case somebody used the telephone number of another person through a malpractice and the bill for which is received by the latter...
(Interruptions)

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, there is a practice in our electronic exchanges. If a person deposits 25 per cent of the amount, then after an investigation of the whole case we suggest him as to what is the actual over-due amount.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just mentioned about increasing the number of exchanges in Delhi. At what points these are going to be increased and whether superior machinery will be installed in these exchanges so that it functions properly and wrong numbers are not connected. Many times I have even been abused by some female on getting a wrong number.

Besides, many heavy bills also come to us. Whatever the Madam has said is quite correct. I complained about my telephone 5-6 times but received only a vague reply. Once an officer of your department said that they have watched my telephone and that I rang up Bombay. When I said that I did not ring up Bombay, he replied that the name "Tulsiram" is used only in Maharashtra and not in Andhra Pradesh. I even asked that officer to get me a number connected with this. Ever since then he has been absconding and has not even got me any number. Therefore, the hon. Minister should look into it. There are many other hon. M Ps, who received such telephone bills. I want to submit to the hon. Minister that we will gain nothing by avoiding this issue. You will have to allow some rebate in such cases. . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tulsiramji, for God's sake have mercy on us. You first tell us whether the abuse was sweet or bitter.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : It was not sweet but bitter.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Whenever such complaints are received we get them investigated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You get it enquired into and arrive at a conclusion. Many such complaints are received.

SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, there is a heavy demand for electronic exchanges where people get all kinds of facilities. Attempts are being made to set up such exchanges all over India. We try to establish it according to the capacity.

Districts linked by S. T. D. in Madhya Pradesh

*273. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of districts in Madhya Pradesh linked by S.T.D. during the last three years and the number of districts yet to be linked by S.T.D.; and

(b) the time by which the remaining districts are likely to be linked by S.T.D. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) (i) 12 District Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh have been linked by S.T.D. during the last three years. These are :—

Bhind, Dewas, Dhar, Gwalior, Mandsaur, Morena, Rewa, Raigarh, Satna, Seoni, Sehore and Vidisha.

(ii) 24 District Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh are yet to be linked by S.T.D.

(b) The 24 remaining District Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh have been planned to be linked by STD during the 7th Plan.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Hon. Minister has stated that 12 districts have been linked by S.T.D. and 24 districts are to be linked while there are as many as 45-46 districts in Madhya Pradesh. As such 10 districts have been left out right. I want to know from the Hon. Minister the reasons for excluding 10 districts outright and names of districts proposed to be linked by S.T.D. In coming 6 months ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH) : Sir, as has been stated, remaining 24 districts in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be linked by S.T.D. and it has further been stated that these districts will be linked by S.T.D. in the remaining 1½ years of seventh five year plan.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Sir, I would like to submit that my constituency Morena has been linked by S.T.D. but there are some big towns in my constituency such as Shyampur, Sabalgarh, Porsa and Amba which are market centres for wheat mustard and ghee. May I know as to when these towns are likely to be linked by S.T.D. ?