

श्री अमर सिंह राठवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो सिटीज लिए गए हैं, अहमदाबाद से जोड़ने के लिए, ये कब तक पूरे होंगे और क्यों ये 24 घंटे के लिए हैं या दिन या रात के लिए हैं ?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Some of the cities are connected to Ahmedabad by STD; others which are not connected possibly have not got the automatic exchange, they may be having manual exchange. Unless they are replaced by automatic exchange they could not be connected by STD. But about the time it is difficult to say. We are short of automatic exchange equipment; it is not something on which we can lay our hands on and say: it will be done tomorrow; and the day after tomorrow we do not want to face a privilege motion for not doing it as committed.....  
(Interruptions)

श्री अमर सिंह राठवा : मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि बड़ोदा भी एक बड़ा सिटी है, दोहोद भी एक बड़ा सिटी है और बड़ोदा डिस्ट्रिक्ट में राजपीपला भी एक बड़ा सिटी है, तो क्या इन शहरों को अहमदाबाद से एम० टी० डी० के द्वारा जोड़ने का कोई प्रोग्राम है और दिल्ली से बड़ोदा को जोड़ने के लिए प्रोग्राम तय नहीं हुआ है वह कब तक आप कर रहे हैं ?

श्री कार्तिक उरांव : यह एक बहुत अच्छा सुझाव है, इसको ध्यान में रखा जाएगा।

**Agricultural Development Project for Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling with aid from Netherlands**

\*626. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent to the Union Government a Rs. 50 crore project report for the agricultural development and allied work in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts of West Bengal with the assistance of the Government of Netherlands;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the feasibility of the project;

(c) whether it has been cleared by Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A project estimated to cost Rs. 71.60 crores over a period of five years has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Matter is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are guidelines, norms or criteria in the matter of clearing projects of this nature; if guidelines or criteria or norms are there, may I know them? May I also further know from the government whether this particular project satisfies those guidelines or not?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): The guidelines are laid down by the Planning Commission for clearance of such projects. As has been stated, this project received from West Bengal Government is under the consideration of the Government. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission have been discussing this project. The Netherland authorities also visited India some time back and it was to be discussed with them. But if the hon. Member wants to know specifically what guidelines have been framed, he will have to give a separate notice.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is an apprehension which I want to be cleared by the hon. Minister—that the general policy of the Government is to clear a project for agricultural development sponsored by the State Government if it is tied up with the World Bank. Now this project is not tied up with the World Bank. Is it the policy of the Government not to clear those projects which are not tied up with the World Bank?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** To my mind, there is no such policy of the Government in favour or against any project of the type.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** In view of the fact that Uttarkhand movement and the demand for Gorkhaland precisely is also within these three districts, will the Government tell us whether the Government will expeditiously clear the project so that development work can be undertaken very soon in order to counter this thing?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** As I stated, the project is receiving consideration of the Government at various levels and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

#### Telephone Lines/Telex Circuits in Bihar

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\*627. **SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA:**  
**SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the important telephone lines/telex circuits in Bihar remain dead for long because of faulty maintenance and neglect; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA:** I am rather shocked to hear the reply of the hon. Minister. On the basis of my personal experience, and the experience of a large number of friends I can say that the grievances mentioned in this question are not only correct but it has also become a chronic problem which has been continu-

ing for years. In view of all this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister; has he made a comparative study of the performance in different States and State capitals before answering my question?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):** It has now come to a stage in which any observation of the performance of the telephone department has to be accepted as a gospel truth. But I am just taking my position that that is not the case. As far the analysis that has been done, that is with me and I can lay it on the Table of the House and supply a copy of that also to the hon. Member. With respect to the performance, I may say, Patna, the capital of Bihar is connected to the National network by a 1800 channel microwave link and about 960 channel of coaxial cable system. This is the national network. The other important towns in Bihar like, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Jamshepur, Katihar, Ranchi Dhanbad and Bokaro have also been connected by a microwave system. The third system is radio links in UHF/VHF range which connect Chapra to Patna and Bettiah, Motihari to Muzaffarpur. The rest of it is by cable system. Wherever the connection is through microwave system, the performance is thoroughly satisfactory and it is hundred per cent efficient. As far as the coaxial system is concerned, there also the performance is satisfactory—it is between 90 and 100 per cent. As far as the UHF/VHF system is concerned, it also does not fail. But there are small district headquarters and other exchanges which are working on what is known as group system by cable connection. There the performance varies. The performances in certain areas, I must say, have gone down below 50 per cent. In the other areas, the performance is between 50 and 80 per cent. Below 50 per cent, is certainly poor performance, but generally speaking the performance with respect to the rest is satisfactory.