

of the State Governments. Otherwise, we cannot operate it.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: The statement laid on the Table of the House says that the question whether the Central role in inter-State transmission of power should be enlarged, is receiving attention. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government is seriously thinking in terms of enlarging the Central control over the National Power Grid, and National Load Despatch Centre.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: We must have the concurrence of the State Government. Otherwise, we cannot operate.

SHRI B. R. NAHATA: It has been said in answer to part (c) of the question that in spite of the fact that the Central Government has given 100 per cent. assistance, there have been short-fall in utilization by the States. Which are the States concerned, and to what extent have they not utilized the assistance. And, against the States which have not utilized it, what steps is the Central Government going to take to ensure the implementation of the scheme?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There are shippages I do not have the names of the States with me, but there are always shippages. It is a national disease. With regard to construction of transmission lines, construction of power stations, whenever you examine them you will find that the each plan there are 30 to 40 per cent of shippages.

Post Offices in Idukki District, Kerala

*125. **SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many post offices are there in Idukki district of Kerala;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to open more post offices

this ~~step~~ to obviate the difficulty experienced by the people of that area; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) There are 254 post offices in Idukki district of Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 30 representations have been received by the Postmaster-General, Kerala Circle, Trivandrum.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Will the hon. Minister tell the names of the places from which representations have been received? Will the hon. Minister also let us know the time limit for opening of these post offices in those places? As there is no sorting office in this area, much delay is caused in the delivery of letters and other materials. Will the Government consider opening up a sorting office in Idukki or in the vicinity of that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): This Idukki District is a very small District. This is a hilly and forest area. I would say that it has got a very good network of post offices. As I have already explained, it has got 250 post offices. There are 42 villages out of which 40 are G.P. Villages and all of them have post offices. Again there are 12 branch post offices in the rural area served by mobile post offices. The District has 963 letter boxes of which 983 are in the rural areas. The population and area served by each post office in this Idukki District is 3014 and 20.02 sq. kms. respectively. As against this, in the neighbouring district, Kottayam has got an area of 15.78 sq. kms. and a

population of 5148. In Kerala circle an average population served by each Post-Office is 4662 and it has an area of 8.47 sq. km. There are six proposals for the opening of post offices which have already been sanctioned and four are likely to be opened. For 1981-82, we have an all India target for the next five year plan. There are 1600 post offices and out of them 50 post offices fall to the share of Kerala. So far as his proposal for opening a sorting office is concerned, it will be looked into.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: The hon. Minister said that Idduki is a small District in Kerala. But the hon. Minister Mr. Stephen was having his constituency there earlier. Can he say that it is a small district? Unfortunately, the Minister is misinformed and he has to go through the census and the geographical map of Kerala. It is one of the biggest districts in Kerala and one of the biggest constituencies in India.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: So far as my contention is concerned, I have said that this small district has got a population of 765 lakhs. But as against this, we have district i.e. Ranchi and Santhal Parganas of 26 lakh population and above. Therefore, I say this.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): Of course, I was a member representing this constituency here. There is nothing much to say. Smallness is a comparative concept. Every district in Kerala is comparatively small compared to districts outside. So, smallness is a comparative concept; and if you compare it with other districts, them, of course, this is not that small. It is fairly a large district in Kerala as compared to others. As to the other question when it can be done and all that, there are 50 post offices allowed in Kerala for this period and out of which 10 will be for the Idukki District. It is fairly well served and 10

post offices will be opened in this year itself.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Please mention those names.

MR. SPEAKER: Send the names to him.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I will give it to you. They are, Parapuzha, Mamathikanan, Mamalakandan, Nellopara, Vattapara and Aracka city. All these are there.

SHRI M. K. LAWRENCE: You have given only six names.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have a dialogue.

I cannot allow the House to be replaced by these telephone headaches.
(Interruptions)

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Hon. Speaker, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. The Government have stated that each Panchayat will have at least one Post Office all over India. What is the latest position? Has the Government taken a decision, or done any survey as to how many Panchayats have been provided with Post Offices and if not how many have been left out?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: This is a matter of detail for which notice is necessary. But I must concede that it is not claimed that all the Panchayats have been provided with Post Offices, but there are so many Panchayats which still have to be provided with a Post Office.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Has a survey been made?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Survey is yet to be made.

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL: Considering the difficulty experienced in Idukki district and the terrain there, so many people have offered their buildings for opening of

Post Offices. Considering that people have to go to travel even up to 10 kilometres for posting letters, will the Minister give priority for opening of Post Offices there?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: We do not go by the standard of the availability of buildings for opening of post offices. Of course, the buildings, wherever offered are gladly welcome; but even in the other areas we have a programme of acquiring land. But that does not mean that we will immediately start the Post Offices there. There are standards of population, standard of distance and distance from one Post Office to another Posts Office and if these standards are conformed to, we open the Post Offices. If they are not conformed to, even if a multi-storeyed building is available we will not open a Post Office.

Capacity of Janpath Telephone Exchange

*126 **SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the capacity of the Janpath Telephone Exchange, (31, 32, 34);

(b) how many telephone connections are working under this telephone exchange;

(c) how many persons are on the waiting list for telephone connections under this exchange in each category; and

(d) when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) to (c). Janpath Telephone Exchange at Delhi consists of four units coded 31, 32, 34 and 35. The required information as on 1-7-81, relating to this exchange is indicated below:—

Capacity	10,600 lines
Working connections	8,646
Waiting list	OYT 279
	Special 31
	General 840
	Total 1200

(d) It is expected that a majority of the applicants on the waiting list at this exchange would be provided telephone connections progressively upto 1983-84 on completion of expansions of the exchange by 1,000 lines and 2,000 lines during 1982-83 and 1983-84 respectively.

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : जनपथ एक्सचेंज की कैपेसिटी मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर के अनुसार 10600 लाइनों की है। वहाँ कनेक्शन 8646 को दिए गए हैं। बारह सौ लोगों को उसी कैपेसिटी में से प्रोवाइड नहीं किए जाने का क्या कारण है ?

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : जितनी कैपेसिटी होती है उसके अनुसार उसको परा लोड नहीं किया जा सकता है। शुरु में उस कैपेसिटी का 90 प्रतिशत लोड होता है। नेक्स्ट एक्स्पेंशन के पहले 95 परसेंट लोड किया जाता है। बाकी जो पांच परसेंट रहता है वह टैस्ट के वास्ते, कैंज्यूअल और टेम्पोरेरी कनेक्शन के वास्ते छोड़ा जाता है।

श्री कृष्ण प्रताप सिंह : यह वेटिंग लिस्ट कब से है ? जिन लोगों को संसद सदस्यों की रिक्विमेंटेशन पर मंत्री जी ने कनेक्शन दिए जाने के बारे में लिखा है उन को कब तक दे दिए जाएंगे ?

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : यह वेटिंग लिस्ट कब से है इसकी डिटेल्स मेरे पास नहीं हैं। लेकिन एक साल के अन्दर जो एक हजार लाइनों दी जाने वाली हैं उस में ये जो बारह सौ वेटिंग लिस्ट में हैं उनको कनेक्शन दे दिए जाएंगे। बाकी 2000 लाइनों 1984 में द्या रहती हैं। इससे सब वेटिंग लिस्ट धाज की श्री और साथे जाने काभी भी सम्भव है