

Deterioration of Telephone Services in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Kanpur

*39. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE ;
SHRI SURAJ BHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether there are complaints about deterioration of telephone services in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur ; and

(b) if so, nature of complaints and reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN) : (a) Some complaints are received from time to time about the telephone services in these cities.

(b) Complaints are mainly about occasional failures to get the local calls, delay in getting trunk calls, delay in getting special services and about excess billing.

Failure to get the local calls can be because of break down in cables or because of congestion in the exchanges owing to heavy traffic. Delay in trunk call may be caused mainly by disturbances in long distance media and associated equipments and absenteeism of the operative staff. Delay in getting special service could be due to shortage of switching equipment at certain stages of the telephone system and absenteeism of operative staff at certain hours. Excess billing could be due to the subscriber himself not being aware of the extent of use of his telephone. However, the number of excess billing complaints is of the order of 1% of the total bills issued.

Microwave System for T.V. Relay at Cochin

*40. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL :
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) how many centres are provided TV relay facilities using microwave system of Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) what are the facilities of Posts and Telegraphs Department for using TV transmissions;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cochin can also be covered by the microwave system; and

(d) if so, is there any proposal under consideration; if so, details of it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The following TV Centres are connected with the microwave link :

1. Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore, Madras.
2. Delhi Mussoorie.

(b) For transmission of TV programme, P&T provide the wide band microwave link and also equipment for conveying TV signals from Centre to Centre.

(c) Wide-band microwave link to Cochin (Ernakulam) is available. TV bearer channel can be provided in it by adding the requisite equipment for which a firm demand is to be placed on P&T after the project is approved.

(d) Cochin (Ernakulam) figures in the perspective plan for setting up TV centres along the P&T's network

and is included in Phase-II (1985-90). Its implementation will, however, depend on the availability of resources and relative priorities accorded to expansion of TV in the country.

Sick Oil Wells

231. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sick wells in India;
- (b) the quantity of oil that could be available from these wells if they are made operational;
- (c) details regarding the steps being taken to obtain oil from these sick wells; and
- (d) names of the areas where the search for oil is going on?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : (a) Total number of sick wells as on 1-1-1982 is 527.

(b) It is difficult to quantify in advance the actual quantity of oil that could be available from these wells. This can only be known after the repairs are over.

(c) The steps being taken are :

1. Increasing the number of work over rigs.
2. Operating all these rigs round the clock instead of 8 or 16 hours working.
3. Modern equipment being added to speed up the operations.
4. Stimulation of wells is planned.

5. Developing indigenous equipment.

6. Contract workover services.

(d) ONGC is carrying out drilling/testing operations in search for oil in Gujarat, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and seven places in off-shore areas in Bombay High, Palk Strait, Ratnagiri and Godavari.

Besides geo-exploratory surveys are also in progress in different on-shore areas in Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman-Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat and in the off-shore prospects of Ratnagiri-Mangalore.

Oil India Limited is continuing its search for oil in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mahanadi onshore and offshore. OIL will also take up work in Rajasthan in the near future.

World Bank Pressing for Increasing Electricity Tariff

232. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank is pressing hard the Government of India to increase electricity tariff even in agriculture as a precondition to fulfil its financial commitment towards the power generation schemes of the country ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.