

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 13, 1982/Asadha 22, 1904
(Saka).

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Damage to Telecommunications Service in Orissa

*62. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made an assessment as to the extent of damage caused to telecommunication services in the State of Orissa in the recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by his Ministry to re-established necessary telecommunication services in the State; and

(d) the amount that will be needed to restore these services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving details of the extent of damage is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The cyclone occurred on 3rd and 4th June, 1982. The work of restoration was started immediately after the cyclone. About 85 per cent of telephone connections, 50 per cent of trunk circuits and 10 per cent of long distance Public telephones were restored by 8-6-1982. Most of the restoration work is now completed except a few trunk lines for which work is in progress.

(d) Estimated cost of restoration is about Rs. 35 lakhs.

Statement

DETAILS OF THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE

Sl. No.	Particulars of assets affected	Extent of damage
1.	Telephone Exchanges.	72
2.	Telex Exchanges.	3
3.	Local Telephones interrupted.	5281
4.	Trunk Circuits interrupted.	106
5.	L.D. Public Telephones interrupted.	260
6.	T.P./Telegraph Circuits.	50
7.	Main trunk lines damaged.	400 kms. approximately
8.	Branch open wire lines damaged.	300 Kms. „
9.	Town lines damaged.	100 Kms. „
10.	Cable damages due to uprooting of trees and ingress of moisture into joints and potheads from stagnation of water for long period.	100 joints of different sizes.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, during the recent cyclone Orissa has faced a widespread devastation in communication system. We are grateful to our Prime Minister who had visited the worst-affected areas. She had observed that the entire communication system of the coastal area should be reviewed with reference to the urgent need for dissemination of warning at the time of cyclone.

I may draw the attention of this august House that after the devastating cyclone of 1971 in Orissa, the Government of India had appointed the Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Koteswaran. The Koteswaran Committee had made some vital recommendations with regard to the communication system pertaining to dissemination of cyclone warning. The Committee had proposed for establishment of a coastal radio station at Paradip. I may point out that during the recent cyclone the communication link between the coastal radio station at Calcutta and the Cyclone warning Centre at Bhubaneswar was cut off.

Another recommendation made by the Committee was establishment of the snap-proof communication link between Paradip radar, the storm warning centre at Bhubaneswar and the AIR at Cuttack. But this has also not been done.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: I am explaining the present position. I must explain this important aspect of the matter.

The present position is that there is a teleprinter circuit between Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre and Paradip radar. But during a cyclone, it becomes the first casualty and it does not work. There is a permanent wireless telegraph also. During the recent cyclone, it became inoperative.....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a question.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: I am asking a question.

During the recent cyclone, the Meteorological Centre was cut-off at 5.30 P.M. on the 3rd June when the cyclone reached its peak at Paradip around 10 P.M. This emphasises the need for provision of better communication in Orissa.

May I ask what action is being taken by the Ministry of Communications specially to rectify these defects and particularly with reference to the suggestions made by the Koteswaran Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The first part of her longish question is a suggestion and we have taken note of her suggestion. The second part of her question is regarding the restoration of the line. Most of the lines and most of the exchanges are restored. Except 8 public call officers, rest of the lines are restored.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Now, I put, my second question.

MR. SPEAKER: Long and short.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: It is an important matter. We had given a Call Attention Notice on it. But our names did not come in the ballot. Naturally, we should be given time to put questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Time is given according to rules and regulations.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: It is understood that the State Government of Orissa have proposed that sub-division headquarters and some important localities of the coastal areas of Orissa where repeatedly cyclones and floods occur should be provided with STD facilities. So, naturally, I ask, what action is being taken by the Ministry of Communica-

tions in regard to that. I may point out here that there is co-axial line....

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this Question.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: I am saying why STD facilities should not be provided.

MR. SPEAKER: Irrelevant.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: There is an co-axial line between Balasore and Berhampur. But there is no STD facility between Bhubaneswar and Balasore and between Bhubaneswar and Chhatrapur...

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come out of this Question.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: It is written subject-wise. The estimated cost of restoration is Rs. 35 lakhs but the Hon. Minister has replied to a question by the Press in Calcutta that Rs. 50 lakhs is required for the restoration work. May I know what is the actual position?

MR. SPEAKER: A Calling Attention notice has been already taken up on this subject.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: So far as the first part of the question about STD is concerned, it all depends on the reliability of the equipment. As regards the second point, about Rs. 10 to 50 lakhs is required.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: अध्यक्ष जी. उड़ीसा में तूफान आया और वहाँ दूर संचार सेवाओं को क्षति पहुँची है। तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा मंत्री जी ने बताया है और उन्होंने यह आश्वासन भी दिया है कि वे क्या करने वाले हैं। लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यहां दिल्ली में तो कोई तूफान नहीं आया फिर यहां पर अधिकतर समय दलीफोन बंकार क्यों रहते हैं? जहां पर तूफान नहीं आया है वहां पर क्या संचार व्यवस्था ठीक रहेगी?

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise out of this question.

Practice for Indication of date and Time of Delivery of L. P. G. Cylinders on voucher by Agencies

*63. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is incumbent upon the Indane Domestic Gas Connection agencies to indicate separately by (i) date of call for cylinders from the customers; and (ii) the actual date of delivery of the cylinder in the voucher;

(b) whether this practice is being followed by the suppliers in New Delhi;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) According to the present procedure cooking gas (LPG) distributors, including Indane distributors, are required to record the date, time and booking number, as also the date of delivery of LPG refill cylinders to customers, in a separate register maintained for this purpose. The actual date and time of delivery can be acknowledged by the customer on the delivery voucher. The field officers of the oil companies inspect these registers regularly.

(d) The oil companies whose distributors are not indicating these details in the voucher have been advised to direct their LPG distributors to include all these details in the vouchers issued to the LPG consumers at the time of the delivery of the refills.

I apologise for having added the words 'whose distributors' in Part (d) of the Answer. These words are added because this expression was not there.