

new recruitments because of machanisation are from the ruling elite, as adequate number of tribals are not trained for the job.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, actually I have submitted that so far as the local people are concerned, they are absorbed.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : I specifically asked about local tribals, not local people.

AN HON. MEMBER : Tribals and Scheduled Castes, both.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : How many tribals and Scheduled Castes people have been trained for the job ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : This question is also taken care of in another question, perhaps Question No. 10 where a specific question has been asked. I will just give that question number.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : But that will not come up for discussion. That is why I am asking this.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : It is question No. 12.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : In that question you have very cleverly avoided the word 'tribals'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Actually the position is this. May I just submit to the House...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is all legal skill.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : No Sir. Not at all. I mean, factual skill. I may submit that we from the Ministry have issued instructions to the various authorities that wherever the tribals are there and where it is a case of manual labour, their services have to be utilised and they should be recruited. Now, we have some difficulties.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Sir,

you taken care to see that your instructions are followed ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The point is this. If you can bring to my notice that at a particular place some injustice is being done to the tribals, I will see that certainly it is alleviated. I do not deny that it is possible that at a particular place the officers may not be recruiting them notwithstanding the instructions. But I will be grateful if this information is passed on to me so that action could be taken in that regard. But I assure you that notwithstanding the machanisation, we have been trying to see that the manual labour is not affected and in fact, I must say that where we are trying to recruit some of the persons from tribals, we are also training them so that they could be used as skilled labour.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE : ... So many people have been thrown out of job.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I would like to have that information.

Policy of Extending S.T.D. Facilities

*328. **SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government for extending S.T.D. facilities to various places; and

(b) whether population is one of the prime consideration ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) For extension of S.T.D. facilities to various places the following priorities are laid down :

(i) Connection of State Capitals to Delhi.

(ii) Connection of District Headquarters to respective State Capitals.

(iii) Connecting of District Headquarters within 300 Kms. of Delhi and 200 Kms. of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to the respective metropolitan centres.

(iv) Other routes justified by traffic (one hundred manual calls each way per day is taken as the minimum).

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Sir, it is a question, of...

MR. SPEAKER : Life and death.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Not life and death, but it is of importance to our country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Because of bills, Sir.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : There also bills are more.

I must say that the STD facility available in the whole of our country is very meagre and particularly our State, i.e., Madhya Pradesh, lags behind like anything. It is a big State and the policy which is laid down is that there should be connection of State Capitals with Delhi. Bhopal is, of course, connected too. But the district headquarters are not connected. Take the case of northern region of Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior Division and other places. Neither Bhind nor Morena nor Rajgarh nor any of that area is being connected. This is given as priority No. 2. But it is not being followed there at all. Secondly, again I do not know whether that is a policy or not. Why don't you connect in such a big State the divisional headquarters with the districts? That also is not there. Gwalior is a Divisional Headquarters. But you have not connected it with Bhind and other places. Why? Small places in other States are connected. You have laid down the policy. Policy is there, but you are not following it altogether.

Similarly No. 3—District headquarters within 300 km. of Delhi. But what about

Bhind, what about Morena? They have not been connected with Delhi. They are within 300 km.

Regarding 4, I have no figures with me. But this criteria has also not been followed. At several places the number of calls are more than 100, but they are not being connected.

There is a question about the connections with the foreign countries abroad. That has not been replied to. 80 cities have been included which can have direct dialling. I do not find 'Gwalior' in that. You have not mentioned why? I do not know policy regarding those other places. Since Gwalior has not been brought within that, I have therefore, put question about population. Gwalior is at number 27 in this regard but Gwalior has not come in 80 places. I want to know your plan to cover the States and other places.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : The telephone density depends on the demand and industrial development too. In the whole of India about 600 stations qualify for providing STD facilities, as mentioned in the answer. Out of it as on 31.1.1984, 299 stations have been provided with STD facilities all over India. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned out of 35 Districts, 24 districts are having automatic exchanges and 21 are having manual exchanges. These 21 districts are to be converted into automatic exchanges by giving priority. We are giving that. But unfortunately, in Madhya Pradesh there is not much of industrial development. Therefore, is not much of demand for telephones.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Gwalior is fairly developed.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : In Gwalior the number of telephones is 4,500. You have mentioned about Bhind. There are only 360 telephone connections. You said about 300 kms. from Delhi. Bhind is within that area, metropolitan centre. 60 centres qualify for STD around Delhi. So far we have given STD to 30 districts and to remaining 30 we shall give as soon as possible; when the buildings are completed, automatic exchanges are given there. In Bhind it is CBM 360. It has first to be

connected with automatic and then STD.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : I have put another question. What is the condition of all these exchangess around Gwalior ? The condition is worst. They are not going to change them into automatic and you will not give STD facility. When are you going to give us these facilities ? What is your plan, what is your programme ? You may please specify the time to provide us these facilities.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Firstly the demand is to be generated. Whenever there is demand, we will provide facilities. When there are quite a number of applicants, we will give more connections.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : You have not said that before. Sir, he is changing the criteria.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : I may give example of Gujarat State—Baroda. There were 4,000 telephones in 1974. Now there are 16,000 telephones in Baroda. The waiting list there is of 7,000 lines. We have got a waiting list of 1.85 lakh lines all over the country. Where there is a long waiting list, we have to give priority to that particular town. But all the same we have taken for priority District Headquarters. We are trying to construct buildings and automatise those exchanges and connect them with the State capitals.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : What about the specific plan ? In how much time you propose to cover all this ? Will it be in the Eighth or Ninth Five Year Plan ? What are the specific priorities ? I wanted to know the principle.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : As my colleague has stated, the priorities are mentioned in the answer State Capital to Delhi, District Headquarters to State Capitals, on that basis 600 places have qualified. As he has stated 299 have been provided with STD facilities. (*Interruptions*). I can give you the idea of the extent involved. If we automatise all the exchanges we will require

1 lakh equivalent line of strowger type 1.2 lakh of TAX equipment and various other equipments. These are just not available.

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Why not others ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : We are strictly following priorities laid down.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : मंत्री जी ने अपने दूसरे जवाब में कहा है—

Connections—District Headquarters to respective state Capitals.

आप जानते हैं, हम हाजीपुर में आते हैं और वैशाली जिले का हैडक्वार्टर है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने देखा है।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : इसी सदन में मैंने दासियों बार सवाल उठाया है कि इन दोनों की मुश्किल से 10 किलोमीटर भी दूरी नहीं है। इस पार पटना है और उस बार पुल के पार हाजीपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : बीच में मझदार है ना।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : अब सेतु बन गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दूसरे सेतु के लिए प्रबन्ध कर रहे हैं।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : आपका आश्वासन रहा है, जो मया पटना बन रहा है, उसकी 10 किलोमीटर की दूरी है, उसके लिए भी एस० टी० डी० की फैसिलिटी नहीं है। अगर कोई आदमी ट्रंक-काल धुक करके छोड़ दे तो दो दिन तक मिलने वाला नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने इसको क्यों लिखा है ? जब आप कर नहीं रहे, अपने ही डिस्क्लीशन पर करना है, जैसा आप लाइक करते हैं, वही अच्छी चीज है

तो मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब पटना के बगल में 10 किलो मीटर की दूरी पर एस० टी० डी० की फैसिलिटी नहीं है तो दूसरे पार का किस लिए लिखा है ? क्या सरकार सदन को आश्वासन देगी कि पटना के डैवलपमेंट को देखते हुए अगर कम-से-कम एक टेलीफोन न कर सके तो एस० टी० डी० की फैसिलिटी तुरन्त देगी या नहीं ?

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : आपका सुझाव ध्यान में रखेंगे ।

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I will get the information about Patna and the place he has mentioned. We shall consider. Off-hand, I cannot say. I will have to know about the availability of equipment. I cannot say, I will do it to-morrow. I am not a magician.

श्री काली चरण शर्मा : ग्वालियर डिवीजन की भिड़ और मुरैना दोनों मंडियां बहुत सरसब्ज हैं। उसके आस-पास की भी काफी मंडियां हैं मसलन आगरा, कानपुर। इनकी डिमांड कई वर्षों से हमने मंत्री जी से की हुई है कि वहां का ट्रैफिक बहुत काफी है। आज तक वहां में कोई ट्रंक-काल नहीं लगा सकते हैं, यह स्थिति डिपार्टमेंट की है। जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने भी कहा, हम जानना चाहते हैं कि ग्वालियर के और उसके आस-पास के बड़े जिलों के लिए आप कब तक एस० टी० डी० मुक्ति दोगे क्योंकि इसमें जहां लोगों को लाभ मिलेगा, वहां डिपार्टमेंट की आमदनी भी बढ़ेगी ?

श्री विजय एन० पाटिल : भिड़ डिस्ट्रिक्ट के लिए हमने इम्पोर्टेड इक्विपमेंट ले लिया है। 12 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हिन्दुस्तान में हैं उसमें भिड़ भी आता है। जहां तक ग्वालियर का सवाल है, वहां प्वाइन्ट टू प्वाइन्ट एस० टी० डी० भोपाल से आने वाली है। आगरा टैक्स जल्दी ही कमीशन होने वाला है, उसके बाद ग्वालियर को दूसरे सिटीज से कनेक्ट किया जाएगा ।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In the North Eastern Region there is lack of communication—road rail, as well as Air. Considering this, the telephone is the only life line for us. What steps is the Government taking to connect the District Headquarters with the State capital and how soon will it be done ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I had stated earlier in the House—we have decided to give priority to North East and some places in North East will be connected through satellite. I am in a very unenviable position. his Member of Parliament wants STD in Every constituency, naturally...

MR. SPEAKER : Don't you realise that is the sign of improvement and progress ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : They are justified in demanding. But my limitation is the availability of equipment. Therefore, we are going according to certain norms, Incidentally, Mrs. Dandavate had asked me a question and I have got the information now—you also, Sir, expressed interest in that—and that information is that there is an electronic device, STD—on and off—and some manufacturers have approached us. We have asked them to give the prototype which will be examined by the TRC and, if we find that this can work in our system, we will start issuing licences. Therefore, the people can buy their own electronic equipment device to check the STD misuse.

Replacement of Cross Bar Exchange System with Electronic Telephone System in Metropolitan Cities

*329. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to continue the production of cross-bar telephone exchange system in some factories and in some it is being phased out;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cross-bar exchange system is not efficient as compared to the newly acquired Electronic exchange system;

(c) if so, the reasons for continuing