

of this Digital Factory and whether the Hon. Minister will give a categorical assurance on the floor of the House of about setting up of a Digital Electronic Telephone Instrument Factory at Bangalore because all infrastructural facilities have been offered in Bangalore.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL: I have already said that the factory would be installed in Bangalore.

Bifurcation of Post and Telegraph Department

*122. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :**
SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sarin Committee have recommended bifurcation of Posts and Telegraph Department; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government there to ?

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

(b) The Committee's recommendations on the subject are still under consideration of the government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The post and tele-communication services have been functioning under a common P & T Department. The suggested separation will have very wide impact and far-reaching implications on the functioning of the services. Government have to consider carefully all the pros and cons of the proposal before arriving at a decision. Is it not a fact that the P & T services have already been bifurcated upto Circle level from 1974, but the results obtained are 'nil', on the contrary, the tele-communication services have deteriorated further ? Also is it not a fact that the bifurcation of the P & T Department shall help in the creation of two posts of Director-General, two posts of Secretary and a dozen more posts of Additional Secretary ? But the services for the users have remained the same in a deteriorated condition.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V.N. GADGIL). The Sarin Committee made several recommendations

numbering to about 437. Out of these, 31 have not been accepted, 28 are pending with various other Ministries and inter-departmental committees and four recommendations which are important and which are under consideration are separation of P & T, Expanded Tele-Communication Board, integration of the civil wing with Tele-Com. and splitting of the ITI. Since this question has been raised several times here and elsewhere, I would like to briefly state as to what is the position. This is going to be a major policy decision affecting a large number of people. Therefore, we are carefully considering it. I would like to give to the House an idea of the problem. We have 1,40,000 post offices, 3,000 Exchanges, 23 lakh telephones, roughly three lakhs of employees in telephones, three lakhs in Posts, plus extra-departmental roughly three lakhs, two public undertakings, then hundreds of buildings and offices ; we have combined offices. Therefore, when we take a decision on this, it is going to affect such a large number of people. Moreover, as the hon. Member pointed out, we have to consider whether there was any advantage in splitting it at the Circle level in 1974, whether any benefit has been derived. There are two points of view here. One point of view is that there is no benefit ; and the other point of view is that, because we bifurcated at Circle level, a considerable amount of development took place in tele-communication. Then again we have to consider what has been the experience elsewhere. In France, they split it and now partially they have joined. Germany has declined to split it at all. About Singapore, I got a letter only last week that they split it into two but again they have joined. In England they separated, and you will be interested to know as to what has been the result. One Committee has reported that after the split, after the Tele-Communication Board was made, things did not improve because that is not a magic formula, by itself it did not : the Committee has said that the losses are so huge that they require to be recorded in the Guinness Book of records. The Tele-Communication Board of Britain came out of the red when it was allowed to put its hands into the pockets of subscribers deeper.

Therefore, it is a complex problem. It cannot be decided in one day.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I want to know whether separation of Tele-Communication is a prelude to hand over the tele-com. services to private management or public corporate sector.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I have said that there is no decision as yet, there is no split decided. Therefore, it is a hypothetical question whether it will go to private enterprise or public enterprise. No such decision has been taken.

MR SPEAKER : Prof. Ranga

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I am satisfied with the answer.

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : The main issue in this connection is about the service conditions of the employees serving in the different departments. The Minister is already aware that the people who are serving in the Telephones, they cannot be utilised for Posts and Telegraphs and similarly, those people who are serving in the Posts and Telegraphs cannot be utilised in the Telephones. Now, what is the combined effect of not bifurcating the Department? Here telephone is not an essential service. Even you can demand any amount of deposit and they give it and mostly the services are made available in urban areas, whereas so far as the Posts and Telegraph offices are concerned, they are essentially needed for the rural people. Therefore, there is the annual price rise for the services in both the Departments.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to let us know what is his view and what are the difficulties in bifurcating the two Departments, even to improve the efficacy in this connection?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I have already mentioned the complexity of the problem. It will affect a large number of people and therefore, you cannot decide it in a hurry.

टेलीविजन कार्यक्रमों के प्रसारण के लिये कम शक्ति वाले ट्रांसमीटर लगाना

*123. श्री सत्य नाराय जटिया : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि देश में 1983-84 के दौरान टेली-विजन कार्यक्रमों के प्रसार के अन्तर्गत राज्य-वार किन-किन स्थानों पर कम शक्ति वाले ट्रांसमीटर लगाये जायेंगे ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT).

A statement showing State-wise names of the places where low-power (100 Watt) T.V. transmitters are proposed to be installed in the country during the Sixth Plan period, is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

Government has recently approved establishment of 113 low power transmitters and 13 high power T.V. transmitters during the VI Plan period. These are in addition to the 13 high power transmitters already under execution as part of approved VI Plan Projects.

A list of 118 places, where low power T.V. transmitters are proposed to be set up is at Annexure. Of these, low power transmitters at five places are proposed to be installed after high power transmitters are established at Agartala, Patna, Bhopal, Indore and Jammu. Low power transmitters are already operating at these places at present.