

को बघाई देना चाहती हूँ कि देश की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी, कि कहां-कहां पर टी० वी० सैट्स खुलेंगे, इसकी एक लिस्ट हमारे सामने आई है। मंत्री महोदय बुन्देलखंड क्षेत्र से स्वयं ही परिचित हैं और उससे उनको गहरा संबंध है। छतरपुर में रेडियो स्टेशन भी हैं। छतरपुर अपनी संस्कृति, साहित्य, कला और इतिहास के क्षेत्र में अपना एक अलग ही स्थान रखता है। जो स्टेशन्स इन्होंने दिए हैं, वे 200-250 किलोमीटर से कोई नजदीक नहीं है। इस बारे में मैंने आपसे लिखित भी निवेदन किया है। क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह उम्मीद करूँ कि छतरपुर को भी इस में शामिल करेंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मंत्री जी ने निमंत्रण तो दे दिया है आने के लिए और बात करने के लिए। आप भी इन से बात कर लीजिये।

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : हमें प्रश्न का जवाब तो मिलना ही चाहिए। भटिंडा के लिए तो इन्होंने कह दिया है।... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : माननीया सदस्या ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, उसके लिये इन्होंने पहले भी मुझे कहा है और मैं पहले भी निमंत्रण दे चुका हूँ। उनको भी मैं बुलाऊंगा और इस सिलसिले में बातचीत करूंगा।

SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : I thank the hon. Minister for giving an assurance for opening a television centre at Gwalior when he came there last time. I also thank him for re-assuring it when I called on him three days ago. I want to submit two things only. The programme of carrying out the promise has not started. When is it going to start? Secondly, did he take into consideration that Gwalior is a famous place for music and art and with that respect is he going to arrange the programmes from Gwalior so that programmes can be developed and broadcast from Gwalior itself.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Gwalior is also identified as one of the low power

transmitters and we will try to see—I do not want to commit any date—that it gets it as soon as possible. Gwalior has been brought to my notice by the hon. Members like Shri Madhavrao Scindia and several other organisations of Gwalior. We are trying to see what best can be done.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : What about programmes from Gwalior.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : This is to be a relay centre. It will get the programmes when the relay centre begins.

**Provision of Telephone Exchange and Post Office Within Every Five Kilometre Radius**

\*124 SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK† :

SHRI B. V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Centre had embarked on an ambitious programme for providing one Telephone exchange and one post office within every five kilometre radius in the country by 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the same; and

(c) by what time this plan is likely to be started ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK : I would like to know whether any norms have been laid down for setting up of telephonic exchange and post offices and also whether these norms are universal in character and apply to all the States and also what is the position with regard to J & K State. It is not a fact that Jammu and Kashmir State despite its international position in

tourism is highly deficient in telephonic and postal facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : Sir, there is little bit of confusion about this...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : On this side or that side.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : On this side 'never'. The policy is based on two things. The National Council of Applied Economic Research has been asked to divide the country with maps on hexagon basis so that within five kilometers by 1990 postal and tele-communication facilities are made available. It does not mean telephone exchange for every five kilometers. It means telephone facilities and post-offices. For that the policy with regard to tele-communications is like this. We are trying to develop a 10 line exchange. Until that is developed we have sanctioned 25 line exchange within a radius of five kilometers if certain conditions are satisfied. One condition is that expected revenue should be 40% of the recurring expenditure. As the lines go on increasingly it can be converted into 50 lines and 100 lines. This will again depend on availability of suitable building, power, batteries, cables and allied material.

As far as manual exchanges are concerned, that is not possible because for every such small manual exchange, you require five operators and unless there are 100 lines, it does not become economical. With regard to the Post offices in urban areas, no post office is opened unless it is going to be remunerative. In rural areas, they are divided into two categories—one is normal rural areas and the other is tribal and backward areas. Now, in Gram Panchayat, village post office is opened if two conditions are satisfied, namely, there are no post offices within a radius of 3 Kms. and the expected income is 25% of the expected expenditure. In Non-Gram Panchayat the population must be 2000 and with regard to the 25% of the expected income, in tribal and backward areas, it is relaxed. More liberal policy is followed. In their case norm of 3 Kms. and 10% of the expected expenditure is to be satisfied.

With regard to the non-Gram Panchayat, it should have a population of 1000 or more. The hon. Member asked about the Jammu & Kashmir. I may point out that the same norms are applied and this is with regard to Exchange also.

With regard to what is called Public Call Offices, exception is made with regard to expected income. Even if it is a loss, for example, if it is a pilgrim place or tourist centre or project concerning power, agriculture, irrigation power projects, etc., in all such cases loss is not taken into consideration.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHAK : I had asked a specific question. In view of the international importance of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, is there any provision made for this State or in the decision you are making about expansion of exchanges and improvement? In the light of that, can I expect that you would assure this House that in view of the international tourist importance, such facilities should be made available to Jammu & Kashmir?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have already stated that the norms applied to all parts of the country. With regard to tourist places, we have relaxed. Even if there is loss, a P.C.O. is started with, regard to pilgrim centres and tourist centres.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, now there will be more telephones and exchanges and all that. But before that, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they have undertaken a study as to how many telephones are really operating in the country. Before you expand the programme, you should stabilise what you have. Have you actually undertaken any study as to how many telephones are dead and what steps you propose to take to reactivate them including the telephone exchanges. There are 60,000 telephones in Calcutta and also there are so many in many other cities. I would like to know whether you have undertaken a study and what steps you propose to take in this regard.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: When a Calling Attention was discussed last session, I men-

tioned the various steps that were being taken. If the House wants, I am prepared to repeat them. As I said, my five-month study shows, although I am not a technocrat or technician, that there are three basic problems. One is the number of telephones per thousand population. In India it is only 3 whereas in Western countries, it is 5 or 6. The second problem is the maintenance. Some time back I attended a Seminar of the Institute of Plant Engineers and I was surprised to hear the President say that 70% of loss in India is attributable in all the industries to lack of proper maintenance. The third and the most important problem, according to me, is investment. For example, the electronic trunk automatic exchange which was established in Bombay in April last for 8,000 lines, had cost Rs. 14 crore. Now, unless you have a massive investment, things are not likely to improve. The basic problem, according to me, is that priority should be accorded to tele-communication and investments be made. Otherwise, the problem may not improve to a great extent.

In regard to Calcutta I agree. I have deputed specially an Officer there. He is expected to report to me next week. Sir, the Hon. Member knows that the basic problem there is that its stronger exchange is old and secondly continuous digging goes on there for various reasons.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, he has identified the reasons, but what steps is he going to take ?

MR. SPEAKER : That he will take after the Report. You are jumping at the conclusions first.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Sir, as you are aware in India most of the telephones are available in the cities. So, far the expansion of telephone facilities in the rural areas - since this is an International Communication Year - may I know from the Hon. Minister whether any policy or programme has been evolved to divide the country into hexagon of five kilometres each and then provide a system of telephone known as MRRAS?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Sir, I have already mentioned that with the help of the National Council of Applied Economics we are proposing to divide the country into hexagon with five kilometres radius and tele-communication facilities are sought to be provided there. Sir, the Hon. Member is right to this extent that Multi-Axis Rural Radio System is proposed to be installed in hilly, desert, tribal, forest and other difficult areas.

श्री राजेंद्र प्रसाद यादव: मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि बैंक वर्ड एरियाज की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। मैं बिहार के सहरसा डिस्ट्रिक्ट के बारे में बताना चाहता हूँ। कामर्स के मुताबिक वहाँ पर 22 पोस्ट आफिस मंजूर हुए हैं लेकिन इनके अधिकारियों का कहना है कि हम मुश्किल से 4 पोस्ट आफिस प्रति वर्ष ही खोल पाएंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि कम से कम जो पोस्ट आफिस मंजूर हो चुके हैं उनको तो खोलने की व्यवस्था की जाए। क्या मंत्री महोदय इसको देखेंगे ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : I have already stated that one of the constraints is non-availability of equipment. As soon as equipment is available, preference is given to the backward areas.

श्री छोटे सिंह यादव : इस विभाग के पूर्व मंत्री जी ने निर्देश दिए थे कि जो संसद सदस्य गांव के रहने वाले हैं और उनके गांव में यदि कोई डाकखाना नहीं है तो प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सब पोस्ट आफिस या ब्रांच पोस्ट आफिस जो भी संभव हो खोल दिया जाएगा। मुझे जानकारी मिली है कि उस लाइन के लोगों के गांवों में तो पोस्ट आफिस खोल दिये गए हैं लेकिन इधर की लाइन वालों के गांवों को छोड़ दिया गया है। क्या सभी सदस्यों के गांवों में पोस्ट आफिस खोलने की व्यवस्था की जाएगी ?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Sir, I am not aware of any statement made, but no discrimination will be made.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that for the purpose of

postal facilities, certain areas are declared as backward areas. But is it not an irrational practice that is being followed that strangely enough in a single district, which is backward, half of it is declared for postal facilities as backward and half is supposed to be non-backward. To give an illustration, is it not a fact that in the West Coast of the Konkan region of Maharashtra in the original Ratnagiri district, the northern portion was declared as backward and the southern portion was declared as forward? And accordingly a different attitude and approach was taken for offering the facilities. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he will end these irrational norms and see that if a particular district is backward, the entire district is treated as backward and accordingly the facilities are offered.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Sir, I have already mentioned the norms. The norms differ for tele-communication and the postal services, because of the nature of the operation is different. Therefore, different norms are prescribed. If some anomaly is there, we will try to correct it. And since, he says that of original Ratnagiri, I may state that I am also originally from Ratnagiri.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, let him have the original approach and say that he will correct the anomaly.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं किसके एश्योरेंस पर भरोसा करूँ, मुझे समझ में नहीं आता ।

Always the same question comes and the Professor is lagging behind.

#### **French Technology for Digital Telephone Exchanges**

\*125 SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to buy French technology for its digital telephone exchanges which is in the process of discarding by the French authorities in favour of another newer technology; and

(b) if so, the reasons for hurry in buying an obsolete technology without waiting for the newer one, which is in the pipeline in the same country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Government is buying French technology for digital telephone exchanges which is current in France and will be used in French Telecom. network in future.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : How many telephone exchange projects are there in India, which have been selected for being equipped by the French technology? Secondly, has the Government made any plan to produce all the required digital telephone equipments in the country; and if so, when is such a goal going to be attained? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : There are two projects. If the hon. Member is referring to the electronic switching system, two projects are there : one has been sanctioned for Gonda, and the other for Bangalore. It is on the basis of French technology of CIT-Alcatel.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : My question was whether Government has made any plan to produce all the required digital telephone equipments in the country.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : To manufacture the electronic switching system in India, two projects were sanctioned, of 5 lakhs capacity each every year—one in Gonda, and the other in Bangalore.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : How many bids were offered for the digital telephone exchange units, for which the French technology has been selected? Secondly, what is the basis of selection of the French technology, by discarding all other tenders?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL : International tenders were invited; and as you are aware, it falls in two categories : the first is technical assessment. The Saran Committee which went into this question, had recommended that on the basis of the contemplated development in India, the future exchanges of electronic switching system should be on the basis of 5,000 lines. Among all the tenders, only CIT-Alcatel satisfied this criterion of 5,000 lines.