

telephone system anywhere in the world—it is not possible—where it will be absolutely immune to any set of collapses at all. But the point you will have to remember and which my hon. colleague has stated is that we have 2 lakhs of telephones in Delhi. On an average, per day, the telephone faults are around 4000. This does not mean that all the others are all right. 4000 means that on a particular day, out of 2 lakhs telephones, 4000 telephones have got faults, which means that the rest are working all right that day. But to-day it is mine, tomorrow it may be yours and the day after, it may be another man's telephone. That is to say that the telephones falling out of order will be equally shared by all of us.

Therefore, as far as this year is concerned, it is not that it is the Members of Parliament alone who are affected, but the Minister of Communications also suffers. His telephones were out of order day before yesterday and still one telephone remains out of order.

This is the position we must understand. In a city like Delhi or Calcutta where the work is gone on, cables can come under interruption of water can go into it, and telephones can go out of order. But I am extremely gratified and I feel extremely gratified that as a result of the work that was undertaken during the course of this one year, in spite of the monsoon, the cable system could resist the monsoon in a much more effective manner than it was doing. Step by step we are improving and to-day, as Minister of Communications, I am a completely gratified man in the sense that things have improved considerably and I expect all of you to approve of it. . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Next question—Shri Vijayaraghavan.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप कहें, आपकी बात मैं मान लूंगा, लेकिन आपका टेलीफोन खराब रहे, मेरा टेलीफोन खराब रहे. . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सवाल का टाइम हो गया ।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : लेकिन इसको जरा संजीदगी से देखना चाहिए । मंत्री जी के बस की बात नहीं है, तब भी कोई न कोई रास्ता निकालना चाहिए कि इस तकलीफ को कैसे दूर किया जाए ।

### Review of Drug Policy

\*254. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new drug policy is under review in view of its failure to achieve self-sufficiency in production of quality drugs and technical self-reliance.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Two of the objectives of the Drug Policy, 1978 are to develop self-reliance in drug technology and to aim at quick self-sufficiency in the output of drugs with a view to reduce the quantum of imports. The Drug Policy of 1978 is being implemented. The country is by and large self-sufficient in formulations, imports being marginal. The value of imports of bulk drugs (c.i.f.) as a percentage of the total value of bulk drugs used in the country came down from 28.46 per cent in 1978-79 to 26.6 per cent in 1980-81 and is expected to go down further in the subsequent years. Self-sufficiency was achieved in the case of important bulk drugs like Sulphamethoxazole. Trimethoprim, Metronidazole etc. Indigenous technologies were developed and implemented in the case of many drugs like those mentioned above. The export of drugs and pharmaceuticals have also increased substantially from Rs. 69.02 crores in 1978-79 to Rs. 95.41 crores during 1981-82. Export earnings meet an increasing part of the import bill for drugs and pharmaceuticals and it is expected that the export earnings would completely cover the import bill in the coming years.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.