

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is indeed commendable and good that the Government is cautious and is seized of the matter of transmission and distribution losses because out of 28,000 Megawatt generation ten per cent of transmission and distribution losses would be about 2,800 Megawatt. This essentially is a matter for the State Electricity Boards. The Centre can only provide advisory service and can only give them advice. I think the method of calculation of these transmission and distribution losses is incorrect. How are these losses calculated? My opinion is that these losses are very much more and the State Electricity Boards inform the Government inaccurately and wrongly. Transmission and distribution losses should be calculated on the basis of the revenues earned by the electricity boards on the basis of billing, because what they have generated must necessarily also be sold. We must look at what power has been sold by the electricity boards and what is the total billing they have done. It is only that which will determine what is the total loss. There is now a lot of advanced technology available for controlling transmission and distribution losses. My specific question is, would the Government consider using the latest technology which is now available in the world for controlling the transmission and distribution losses.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: This is one of the recommendations of the Rajadhayaksha Committee and certainly we will consider it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is already under consideration?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Yes.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: May I know whether the transmission and distribution losses are more from one grid to another and therefore, the State Electricity Boards should use the types of new wires which prevent transmission losses rather than the old, hackneyed type of equipment which they are using? May I know whether the establishment of a national grid for transmission of energy will prevent transmission losses?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: As I said, the transmission losses are not so much in the 400 or 220 KV; it is only 5 per cent. But when it comes to 33 KV and other smaller units where rural electrification is there, then it jumps to 20 per cent. There also it includes pilferages, unmetered consumption of electricity etc. All that together comes to 20 per cent in our country. It has not gone more than 20 per cent for the last five years. It is more or less static.

Improvements Consequent upon increase in Postal/Telecommunications Tariff Rates

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*421. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the specific areas of improvement commensurate with the recent increases in postal/telecommunication tariff rates which Government envisage to achieve; and

(b) the specific details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) and (b). The increase in postal/telecommunication rates with effect from 1st of March 1982 were made in order to prevent erosion of the Department's capabilities to finance its own development schemes for the 6th Plan, caused by increase in operational costs. In this indirect sense, the increase in revenue will contribute to the wide range of improvements resulting from the execution of 6th Plan programmes.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: At the outset, I would like to draw your attention to my question, namely:

"What are the specific areas of improvement commensurate with the recent increases in postal/telecommunication tariff rates".

They have only stated that in order to finance the sixth plan, they are going to increase the postal tariffs. In this context, may I know what are the specific im-

provements? The service rendered by both the telecommunications department and the postal department to the nation and to the subscribers is not all satisfactory. In that particular context, I would like to know what are the areas they have identified, so that something can be done for the good of the nation as well as of the subscriber.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): It is clear from the answer given that by increasing the internal resources, we are going to finance the sixth plan in which there are various schemes which we are going to take up for increasing the efficiency and improving the service. If hon. members are interested, can give the details of the sixth plan schemes which we are going to take up. We are giving going to give more connections—13.15 lakh lines more—during the Sixth Plan, which will decrease the waiting list. The present waiting list will be exhausted. Electronic exchanges will be put up at certain places in order to increase efficiency. Ducting will be done so that there may not be leakage of water in the cables. Pressurisation of the cables, replacement of certain exchanges, replacement of aluminium wire fitting by copper wire will be done in order to improve efficiency. We have recently developed an improved version of telephone coded '677' 32,000 telephone instruments have, already been produced. These will be supplied to the subscribers. Then we will have computerisation in billing, complaints and fault centre, directory enquiry and commercial operation. All these measures when taken, will improve efficiency. It is very difficult to specify particular areas.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that due to steep rise in the working expenses of the Department, financial drain has been caused to the Ministry? Second, is it a fact that the rate of increase in the telecommunication is faster than the rate of increase in the P&T services; if so, what are the steps they would like to take in this regard? Moreover, is Government considering the proposal to relax the existing norms to commission new

post offices and PCOs in backward and hilly areas?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have already relaxed the criteria for putting up post offices in the hilly and backward areas. So far as the Sixth Plan period is concerned, the expansion will be in rural areas itself. We will be adding 1,25,743 post offices. So there will be expansion of post offices in backward and hilly areas.

So far as the internal resources are concerned, the decrease is there because of two reasons. One is the increase in expenditure due to additional pensionary liabilities, DA instalments, increase in the manufacturing cost of postal articles, increase in the rates of yearly charges payable to the railways, etc. The other is less investment during the preceding years. If there had been enough investment during the preceding years, it would have given more revenue to the DP Department and we would have been able to improve the services.

8000 post offices will be opened in the Sixth Plan period.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I put my supplementary I would request you to repeat the general direction given by the Chair to the Minister on a number of occasions that whenever any Member asks a question split up in various parts, as far as the reply is concerned, that should be given in parts. Though the hon. Member had asked the question relating to improvements in detail, the general reply (a) and (b) was given like this:

"In this indirect sense, the increase in revenue will contribute to the wide range of improvements resulting from the execution of the Sixth Plan programmes."

When the hon. Member asked for more details about the improvements in the Sixth Plan, only then he came forward with more details.

I would like to ask one supplementary. Before that I will tell you on what experience I am basing my supplementary.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Once I put up an urgent trunk call from the Bombay city to my constituency which is within 300 kms. I said, let it be made lightning. Late in the evening when I reached my constituency, at 9 P. M. I received the trunk call. Fortunately I lifted it up and the operator said: Please speak to Prof. Dandavate. I said: Prof. Dandavate is speaking. This is what is happening. This is the general experience. So, this delay has to be avoided. I would like to put a concrete question about the avoidance of delay. To my mind, it appears that the delays are caused because of certain technological difficulties. The major difficulty, particularly in the rural areas and semi-urban centres, wherever there is exchange equipment, either manual or automatic, is that there are some snags or difficulties in operation. He had referred to computerisation. I was carefully listening to him. He had referred to computerisation of bills. We are not interested in computerisation of bills only. If our bills are received late, it does not matter; we do not mind it. We are not interested only in the computerisation of bills; we are interested in the computerisation of the technology, by which the delay in receiving trunk calls and lightning calls can be avoided. In our country, even the lightning speed has actually decreased to such an extent that lightning calls travel with the speed of a goods train. That is why we say that we want the lightning calls to travel at the speed of lightning. Therefore, let us know whether these technological innovations will be introduced by computerisation, whether manual as well as automatic exchanges will be properly rationalised and whether the money that you have received from us, even before the presentation of the budget and during the budget, will be utilized for these technological changes.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I referred to computerisation of not only bills but also the complaint cells which will remove the complaints of subscribers about the bills.

So far as improvement of efficiency is concerned, I have already said that in the Sixth Plan we are going to replace some

of the old exchanges with new exchanges. We are also going to put electronic digital exchanges at some places, which will improve the efficiency. We are also going to introduce higher sophisticated technology in the Sixth Plan, which will improve the efficiency of the services. This shows that whatever we are going to do in the Sixth Plan will improve the efficiency.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट का जो काम चल रहा है वह सब को मालूम है और मंत्री जो को भी मालूम है क्योंकि कुछ ही दिन पहले वह होम मिनिस्ट्री से आये हैं, इनको मालूम है कि तीन तीन टेलीफोन रखने के बाद भी काम नहीं हो पाता है, हमारे पास तो एक ही है। अभी प्रो० मधुदण्डवते ने कहा कि आप कहीं भी शिकायत कीजिए कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है, 197 या 199 पर कोई नहीं सुनता है, और अगर नम्बर लगता भी है तो गलत लगता है लेकिन हमको उत्तका भी बिल चुकाना पड़ता है। तो क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था की है कि जो गलत नम्बर लगता है, जिसका दोष हमारा नहीं है बल्कि विभाग का है, ऐसी कालस भी जो बिल में शामिल कर दो जाती हैं, उनकी कटौती बिल में से कर दो जाय, ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था आप सोच रहे हैं?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : ज्यादातर जो रॉग नम्बर का डायलिंग होता है वह इंस्ट्रुमेंट में फाल्ट होने से होता है। 30 to 40 per cent is due to the instrument. Therefore we are working on the improvement of instruments. We have recently developed the technology of Coded 677 instrument and we have started producing it. 32000 instruments have been supplied. That will reduce wrong dialling.

When a particular number is dialled and the subscriber gets a wrong number, it is difficult to say where the defect is and so we cannot agree not to charge the subscriber.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Why should the public be penalised for their faults?

श्री राम विलास पासवान : सब लोग इस बात को जानते हैं कि गलत नम्बर मिलता है और उसके लिए पब्लिक को खर्च बीअर करना पड़ता है, तो पब्लिक ऐसे खर्च को बीअर क्यों करे ? आपने टेलीफोन का दाम बढ़ाया, पब्लिक तैयार है, दाम बढ़ाइये लेकिन काम भी तो होना चाहिए। एक तरफ आप दाम बढ़ाते जायेंगे और दूसरी तरफ गलत नम्बर लगते जायेंगे, इससे दोनों ओर से पब्लिक को लास हो रहा है, ऐसा क्यों है ? आपने 50 पैसे से 80 पैसे कर दिया, पब्लिक तैयार है देने के लिए लेकिन 80 पैसे में भी 4 जगह गलत होगा तो पब्लिक क्यों उस का पैसा दे ? इसके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, he is suggesting certain things, and I have noted them.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : मेरी कांस्टीटुएन्सी भीलवाड़ा में पहले 200 लाइन का टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज था, आज वह 1000 लाइन का एक्सचेंज हो गया, लेकिन उसमें कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ। उसकी बिल्डिंग को स्वीकृति हो चुकी, लेकिन बिल्डिंग एस डिपार्टमेंट ने बनाई नहीं है। कितना पैसा बढ़ाया है, लेकिन कोई सुविधा बढ़ाने के लिए तयार नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो अभी टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को बिल्डिंग है वह बहुत कम है, उससे कोई लाइन मिल नहीं पाती, इसलिए कब तक बिल्डिंग बना कर नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज की व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : बिल्डिंग बनाने के लिए जमीन गवर्नमेंट से या पब्लिक से मिलनी चाहिए। इसमें और भी डिफिकल्टीज होती हैं, प्लान के मुताबिक जितना एलाटमेंट होता है, उतना ही बिल्डिंग में जायेगी। हर जगह बिल्डिंग नहीं हो सकती, फेज-वाइज ही हो सकता है।

Oil Research in Mahanadi Basin

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*422| †**SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:**

SHRI A. C. DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make further investigation on the reserve of oil in the Mahanadi basin of Orissa;

(b) if so, the name of oil company which has been given licence to undertake the above investigation work; and

(c) the details about the investigation work undertaken earlier and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). Oil India Limited is carrying out exploration work in the Mahanadi Basin both offshore and onshore. In the Mahanadi offshore area the seismic data collected earlier and information obtained from the two wells drilled in 1980 and 1981 is being reinterpreted by Oil and its consultants M/s. MmCord Lewis of USA to decide upon the future exploration plans for this area. In the onshore areas, seismic survey work is in progress and is expected to be completed by May, 1983.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that Oil India has been carrying out exploration work, offshore and onshore, near the Mahanadi basin and the seismic data has already been collected. It is reported that extensive oil bearing areas have been found in