

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I am not aware of any Parliamentary Committee report.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I think that information was very comprehensive. We had enough of questions the other day on it. Next question.

#### Poor performance of Pentaconta Exchanges

\*367. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seven-year contract between the Indian Telephone Industries and the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company for the Crossbar Exchange manufacture has been extended recently despite poor output at the Bangalore factory and poor performance of these Pentaconta Exchanges as disclosed in an article in the *Hindu* on October 11, 1971; and

(b) whether the deal with Bell Group was signed without taking any expert opinion of the then Members in-charge of Telecommunications?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):** (a) The collaboration agreement with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company of Belgium which was due to expire on the 26th May, 1971, has been extended by one year without payment of royalty so as to facilitate the attainment of full rated capacity of Crossbar equipment at the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., by the end of March, 1972 and to get over certain difficulties which have been encountered in the maintenance and working of the crossbar exchanges, the equipment for which was imported from Belgium. During this extended period, the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company have

agreed to supply some additional machine at their cost and also make available the services of their technical experts.

(b) No.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:** That are the grounds for not appointing a special committee to go thoroughly into the background of the collaboration with this Bell Co.; and the present problems of manufacture at Bangalore and in the working and maintenance of the crossbar exchanges?

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** Way back in 1963 the Government of India appointed a committee to go into the question of the manufacture of switching equipment for the expanding needs of the country. A technical committee was constituted by the Ministry of Communications. It went round seven or eight countries to examine the various systems that are in vogue. The Committee made its recommendations. Of course, the Committee was divided in its opinion. The Director of Telecommunications Research was of the opinion that the Pentaconta system as given by the Belgians was the best suited to the country, whereas the other two Members were of the view that that system had certain deficiencies. Thereafter the matter was referred to the Cabinet Sub-committee. After the Secretary to the Government had given his note, the Cabinet Sub-committee decided on the adoption of this system. This system has been working, and we have found that it has not been able to come to the rated capacity upto 1970-71. The rated capacity was 100,000 lines a year; the maximum reached is 40,000 lines in 1970-71. There are number of reasons for this shortfall. One of the reasons which has recently come to light is the short supply of capital equipment by the collaborators even in the initial period. Now the collaboration was coming to an end ...

**MR. SPEAKER:** How can I ask members to be brief in their questions if the

Minister takes so long a time to reply? Just before this, the Minister took about 8 to 10 minutes for his reply. Please be brief.

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** He has put five questions and I have to answer them. Otherwise, I will be misunderstood.

The collaborators have agreed to make up for the deficiency of capital equipment and also to set right the technical defects now found in it. They have also promised to help us to bring our production to the rated capacity. I am happy to say that during the last seven months, the production has come to 80,000 lines a year on an average.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:** May I know whether industrial relations at ITI have deteriorated and production has gone down? If so, may I know whether this ministry or the ITI has refused to accept the technician seat by the Bell Company?

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** We have never refused any technician. In fact, it is their responsibility to choose their own people. So far as workers are concerned I congratulate them on having maintained perfect industrial relations in that factory.

**SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:** The Minister promised in the last budget session that he will try to improve the efficiency of ITI and also improve the production rate of transmission equipment and cross-bar exchange system. What effective steps has he taken in this regard? May I also know whether he has taken any steps to manufacture the reed relays which are a very important item in the manufacture of cross-bar system?

**SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** Production has already doubled during the last seven months and we hope to reach the rated capacity. So, efficiency is increasing.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS rise.—**

**MR. SPEAKER:** In 45 minutes, we have not even disposed of five questions. Next question.

#### Shifting of Vividh Bharati Unit from Delhi to Bombay

\*368. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vividh Bharati unit of All India Radio will be shifted to Bombay;

(b) whether this unit of All India Radio was first located in Bombay and, if so, the considerations weighed in favour of bringing this unit to Delhi and now shifting it back to Bombay; and

(c) the expenditure involved in effecting this transfer?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A part of the Vividh Bharati Unit of Bombay was shifted to Delhi temporarily in 1958, due to the lack of accommodation and expansion facilities there. Since the new Broadcasting House has been constructed in Bombay, it has become possible to accommodate the entire Vividh Bharati Unit there. This will facilitate organisational efficiency, administrative convenience and better coordination with Commercial Service which has its headquarters at Bombay.

(c) Approximately Rs. 12.42 lakhs. Of this, an amount of Rs 10.71 lakhs is being incurred on renovation of studios and additional equipment which would have been necessary even if a part of the unit had continued to be at Delhi.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** In view of the economic burden imposed by the Bangladeshi refugees, may I know whether this