

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, August 4, 1971/
Sravana 13, 1893 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Direct Dialling from Bangalore to other cities of India

*1561. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme to connect various cities of the country with Bangalore through direct dialling ; and

(b) if so, the names of such cities which will be connected through direct dialling system with Bangalore during the year 1971-72 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir ; Bangalore is already connected to the Trunk Automatic Exchange at Madras through which direct dialling facility is available from Bangalore to Madras and Coimbatore. It will have direct dialling access to other stations in the Southern Region *viz.* Madurai, Tiruchi, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trichur by the end of the IV plan or early in the V plan. Direct dialling access to stations connected to the Trunk

Automatic Exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi may be expected before the end of the V plan period.

(b) It may not be possible to provide Subscriber Trunk Dialling from Bangalore on any route during 1971-72.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : In view of the growing business in the Southern States, may I know why the Government of India and the P & T Department have not introduced direct dialling between Bangalore and the main commercial cities in the south, which would not only bring more revenue to the Department but would also provide facilities by way of mass media of communications and would also boost the economy of our country ? May I know what steps the Government of India have taken so far at least to link this city of Bangalore with the important cities in the southern States of the country ? May I know why Government have not taken up this programme ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : I have already said that Bangalore is connected to Madras and through Madras to certain stations in the South. As the finances are available and as the machines come to us, we propose to connect Bangalore not only to Madras and Trichur but to all the places that are connected to the Ernakulam exchange. That thing is on the cards, but it is bound to take time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : This is nothing but a stepmotherly attitude shown by this Ministry, because direct dialling system has been envisaged from Delhi to places in other States like U.P., such as Kanpur and others surrounding Delhi. But so far, the South Indian city like Bangalore has not been linked with the important capital cities like Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta and other places in Kerala. So, is it not a fact that the Government of India have shown discrimination

towards the South Indian States and thus they have not boosted the economy of the southern States because of the absence of mass media of communication and this has also resulted in the lack of business and commerce in the Southern States of India, and if so, what steps are the Government of India going to take immediately to meet the situation in this behalf ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : The situation is hardly as Shri Lakkappa puts it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : The Southern States have been neglected.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : The Government of India are conscious of the demands of the south, north, east and west, all the regions of this country. They are trying to distribute the sums available to the P & T Department in a measure which meets the requirements of all regions. This is a vast country and there are bound to be differences in the matter of connecting one place with another on a priority basis. As and when funds are available, Bangalore will receive due attention. We treat it as one of the historic places. It is bound to have all the affection from us.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : May I know, Sir whether the delay in installing the direct dialling system is due to non-availability of material? I read in the newspapers this morning that direct dialling system between Madras and Madurai also could not be done because of non-availability of material. What is the reason for this and how are Government going to tackle it ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : We have established a factory for producing all this material in Shri Lakkappa's area, Bangalore. 10,000 workers are doing three shifts. Unfortunately, production of cross bar exchanges is only 40 per cent of rated capacity. We are trying our best to produce upto 100 per cent capacity and as soon as we are able to do so, this shortage of cross bar exchanges would have gone.

SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : What steps have been taken to connect Hyderabad, headquarters of Andhra Pradesh, by a dialling system with Delhi.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : I am sorry my hon. friend will have to wait till the end of this Plan.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : May I ask about Gandhinagar, the new capital of Gujarat ?

MR. SPEAKER : These questions are not relevant.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Wherever the direct dialling service is there, daily we receive the reply from the enquiry that the line is out of order. What steps are taken to reactify this ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not about the defects in service. He should not connect it like that. After all, he must be relevant.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : It is about the service.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Raising of age limit for U.P.S.C. Examinations

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*1562. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :**
SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA :
SHRI GANGA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 417 on the 26th May, 1971 regarding the raising of age limit for recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service and State :

(a) whether Government have by now taken any decision on the Administrative Reforms Commission's recommendation for raising the upper age limit for entrance to the U. P. S. C. competitive examinations to 26 years ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The matter is still under the consideration of Government.