

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Functioning of Calcutta Telephones  
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SNQ. 7. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

SSHRI H. N. MUKHERJE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Calcutta on 25th March, last to make an on the spot enquiry about the complaints against Calcutta Telephones; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed by Government for resolving the problems facing the Calcutta Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANNANDA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. I visited Calcutta on the 24th and 25th March, 1974 and had detailed discussions with the officers of the Calcutta Telephones about the functioning of the Telephone System.

(b) Steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government are given in the Statement placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

*Statement*

Steps taken or proposed by Government for resolving the problems facing the Calcutta Telephones:—

(a) *Steps taken*

(i) One of the major problems faced by the Calcutta Telephones has been the shortage of spare parts required for the upkeep and repairs of the exchange equipment and the telephone instruments. These spares have been progressively manufactured and have been supplied to Calcutta Telephones. Minister of Communications had earlier ordered that remaining few items not available be specially manufactured at Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore on top priority and supplied to Calcutta Telephones. These have since been supplied.

(ii) Arrangements have been made that Calcutta Telephones has a steady supply of spares for continuing future needs.

(iii) Most of the telephone exchanges in Calcutta are at present overloaded. Expeditious installation of additional traffic relief equipment has been taken up to handle the large volume of traffic. Traffic relief equipment is under installation in five exchanges and is expected to be progressively installed in all the main telephone exchanges during the next 12 to 15 months.

(iv) The 2000 line trunk automatic exchange, which was under installation at Calcutta, would be commissioned soon. Thereafter, subscriber trunk dialling services (S.T.D.) would be introduced with Asansol by August 1974, and with Kharagpur by November, 1974. S.T.D. service with Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will be introduced by March, 1975 and with Jamshedpur by end 1976. S.T.D. service to Delhi is expected to be introduced during the Fifth Plan.

(v) The coaxial trunk cables between Calcutta and Madras and the microwave link between Calcutta and Nagpur which are under installation are expected to be commissioned during the next year and will provide stable trunk media for connecting Calcutta with Madras and Bombay. The trunk route to Delhi is being duplicated by installation of a microwave link.

(vi) The management set up of the Calcutta Telephones is being suitably reorganised and strengthened on an immediate basis. A number of supporting posts for this purpose have been sanctioned.

(b) *Steps proposed to be taken:*

(i) The equipment that is lying faulty in the Telephone Exchanges at Calcutta is expected to be set right during the next 4 to 6 weeks time.