

[English]

**Telephone System in Maharashtra**

1202. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone system in Maharashtra, especially in Bombay and Pune is seriously affected during rainy seasons; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures Government propose to take to save the telephone system in the coming rainy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Telephone services are affected during the rainy season.

(b) Precautionary/ preventive measures taken to minimise the dislocation of telephone service are listed below:

- (i) Flooding of trenches where underground cables get exposed due to digging operations undertaken by Department's own unit or other utility services. Flooding shows up the fault, if any, which is rectified;
- (ii) Pressure testing of the joints made;
- (iii) Patrolling of routes where digging operations are in progress;
- (iv) Rigorous acceptance testing of new cables laid to ensure proper depth and workmanship of lay-

ing and jointing;

- (v) Adoption of underground utility code of conduct to coordinate the digging operations of various utility services. In addition, ducting, pressurisation of underground cables and use of jelly filled cables are other preventive long term measures to minimise disruptions during the rainy season.

[Translation]

**Threat to India's Security from Telecommunication Projects in China**

1203. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which India and China are having bilateral cooperation;

(b) whether the UN sponsored and other bilateral projects in the field of telecommunications being executed in China are likely to pose any danger to the security of India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) There is bilateral cooperation between India and China in various fields including agriculture, mining, and some aspects of science and technology and culture. A Joint Group exists at the ministerial level to oversee cooperation on trade, Economic Relations and Science and Technology.

(b) and (c). Though direct danger to India's security is not established, Government keep under constant review all developments having possible implications for the country's security.