

लाइन और सड़कें नहीं हैं उनको आप प्राथमिकता देंगे ?

श्री राज लाल बर्मा : एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के लिहाज से जो स्थान महत्वपूर्ण है जैसे जिला, सदर तहसील, तहसील, ब्लाक और घाने—उन स्थानों को हम प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं और उसके बाद 5 हजार और डाई हजार की आबादी वाले गावों को प्राथमिकता देंगे ।

श्री सोमजी भाई डामोर : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि घाटा हो रहा है, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें कोई घाटा नहीं है, इसकी वे जांच करा लें । यह कमाने का घंघा है ।

श्री रामधारी शास्त्री : मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि घाटा उठाकर तहसील कार्यालयों में टेलीफोन लगाया जाता है लेकिन यह कहना कहाँ तक उचित है कि इसकी फिगर्स उनके पास नहीं हैं । जब उन्होंने जवाब दिया है कि घाटा उठा कर टेलीफोन लगाया जाता है तो उनको आंकड़े भी देने चाहिए कि कितना घाटा होता है और उसको पूरा करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है । मंत्री जी को यह जवाब देना चाहिए । अगर वे जवाब न दें तो आप उनसे यह जवाब दिवायें ।

इसके साथ ही मंत्री जी यह भी बतायें कि ब्लाक और तहसील स्तरों पर टेलीफोन केन्द्र बनाने की जो योजना है उस का लक्ष्य कितने सालों में पूरा कर लिया जायेगा ?

श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुब्बेब साय : पी सी प्रो की रेवेन्यू जब बढ़ती है तब उसको एक्सचेंज में कन्वर्ट कर लेते हैं । पी सी प्रो में रेवेन्यू कम होती है, वह लास में चलते हैं लेकिन जब उनकी रेवेन्यू बढ़ जाती है तब उनकी एक्सचेंज में कन्वर्ट कर लेते हैं ।

श्री रामधारी शास्त्री : मैंने पूछा था कि ब्लाक और तहसील स्तर पर टेलीफोन लगाने का लक्ष्य कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ।

श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुब्बेब साय : दो साल में ।

Some hon. Members rose—

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

Next question—Shri Prasannahai Mehta—not here. Then, Shri Jaffer Sharief—he is also absent.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to submit that under rule 4⁹(3),

“If on a question being called, it is not asked or the member in whose name it stands is absent, the Speaker may, at the request of any member, direct that the answer to it be given.”

This is a very important question. I request that since the member is absent you may ask the Minister to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. This is your own question.

Intercepting Mail of certain Political Leaders

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is being blamed that the important mail of certain political leaders is being intercepted still as was done in the Emergency period;

(b) is so, how far this is true;

(c) whether the former Prime Minister had alleged about the same;

(d) what are the main reasons for this; and

(e) whether the officials responsible for intercepting the mail are still in the Ministry and are helping the present Government also in intercepting the mail of opposition leaders and the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such communication has been received in this Ministry.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, this does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What happened to my earlier request, Sir? The main purpose and the object regarding questions is this. Under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House from rule 32 onwards, a question is drafted and it is admitted by you only to elicit certain information. There is no information when the Minister gives his answer like 'it does not arise'. Is his answer in conformity with the purpose for which the question has been admitted and put down for the answer in the House? Sir, it is a very bold answer when he says that 'it does not arise'. This is not an answer at all.

How can the Minister answer when the question is about intercepting of mails of important political leaders? This would be investigated by the Home Ministry. I do not know why this question has been put down to this Ministry. Anyway I am not complaining against the Minister. It has been given in such a manner that the Minister in-charge cannot investigate into this. This is supposed to have been investigated by the Home Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question now. Have you any supplementary to ask?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I have got a supplementary. Before that, I want your ruling on this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह परम्परा ग्राप की सरकार ने ढाली है। 30 साल तक हमारी डाक खोली गई है। अब ग्राप को तकलीफ़ होती है।

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kachwai, I am on my legs now.

MR. Lakkappa, you have addressed the question to the Minister of Communi-

cations and the Minister of Communication has to reply. Therefore, you cannot now complain that the Minister of Home Affairs should reply.

Have you any supplementary on this? Please go on.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to put a supplementary. Part (C) of my question is whether the former Prime Minister had alleged about the same and whether it is a fact and if the matter of intercepting of mails of certain political leaders as it used to be done during the period of emergency is true, is it being investigated? A statement was made by the former Prime Minister recently—by Smt. Indira Gandhi—about it. What was the machinery that the Minister has got to investigate this complaint and come to the conclusion? He says 'It does not arise'. This is with reference to the statement made recently by the former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi.

SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA: No complaint has yet been received from the former Prime Minister regarding this.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, my question is very simple. I will not put anything against the Rules of Procedure. A statement was recently made by the former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi alleging that intercepting of mails is being done as was done during the period of emergency of the political leaders.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, you are again and again reading the same thing. You want to know whether the Minister has read the complaint which has appeared in the newspapers and whether he has investigated into that complaint.

SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA: I have not read it, Sir.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: In view of the ignorance of the Minister not to have read the statement made by the former Prime Minister of India regarding intercepting of the mail of the political leaders, I would like to bring to his notice that there is operating a gang. (*Interruptions*).

In view of the inefficiency, as the important mail of the political leaders is being tampered with, we have an apprehension that we may not be able to play the role of opposition in this House. (*Interruptions*).

I would like to know what machinery his Ministry has got to investigate such

intercepting of the important mail of the political leaders. Please, also give an assurance that such things will not happen and you will streamline the functioning of your Ministry.

SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA : It is an incorrect charge. I totally deny that we intercept any letter. As far as the complaint is concerned I have categorically said that we have not yet received any complaint from any opposition leader or even Indira Gandhi.

SHRI T. A. PAI: The hon'ble Minister has made some observation in Bangalore that telephone lines have not been bugged and there is no tapping of telephone communications. But recently Shri Jagjivan Ram while disclosing before the Shah Commission brought out that as a matter of habit certain practices still continue. Will the hon'ble Minister categorically assure us that old habits will not continue and it will be put down very firmly, whoever the person is?

SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA: Yes, I can say this Department is not at all concerned with that tapping. Although this question is concerned with postal side yet as far as the telephones is concerned no tapping is done by the Department.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, Shri Lakkappa has asked in part (a) of his original question "whether it is a fact that the Ministry is being blamed that the important mail of certain political leaders is being intercepted still as was done in the Emergency period?" So, Shri Lakkappa admits that it was being done in the Emergency period. (*Interruptions*).

In view of this part (a) of the question, whether the Minister will inform the House as to what was the *modus operandi* and what were the details—particularly of the interception of the mail of the then Opposition leaders during the Emergency?

SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA : As far as the Emergency period is concerned, it was the Intelligence Department which used to do it.

SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA: This department never does it. (*Interruptions*).

श्री छवि राम अग्रवाल : भूतपूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी फोन द्वारा, पत्रों के द्वारा और ब्यानों के द्वारा अपने अनुयायियों से तोड़फोड़ और हिंसा का वातावरण पैदा कर रही है। इस प्रकार

की कई घटनाएं हुई हैं। मद्रास में अभी इसका एक उदाहरण आपके सामने आ चुका है। इस प्रकार की जो कार्यवाही वह कर रही है इन्हें रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

MR. SPEAKER: How does it arise out of this question? Next question.

S.T.D. Facilities Among Cities Of Gujarat

*430. **PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the STD facilities among and between major cities of Gujarat during the current financial year; 1977-78;

(b) is so, full details thereof; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Schemes for expansion of trunk telephone circuits between major cities of Gujarat are under execution and are expected to be completed in phases in 1978-79, 1979-80. STD facilities amongst cities in Gujarat would be expanded progressively thereafter.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: May I know from the hon. Minister the cities which will have this facility under this plan for giving STD connection for each of the two years 1978-79 and 1979-80? May I also know whether the existing STD facility between Ahmedabad and other cities in Gujarat is operating efficiently and faultlessly?

SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI: The following point to point STD are working in Gujarat State: Ahmedabad-Rajkot, Ahmedabad-Barode, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad-Nadiad, Ahmedabad-Delhi, Baroda-Surat, Gandhinagar-Rajkot, Gandhinagar-Baroda, Gandhinagar-Nadiad, Jamnagar-Rajkot and (via Anunagar-Delhi).

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Minister gave information about existing facilities; I know them. I have asked about the future plan.