

**Working of Calcutta Exchanges**

\*74. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total average number of calls that originated at a particular time at Calcutta Exchanges and how many of them actually materialised;

(b) whether 50 per cent of the telephone subscribers always try to get the proper numbers whereas remaining 50 per cent always receive engaged tone; and

(c) what are the effective methods Government have adopted to improve public assistance service like 197, 198 etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKH-DEO SAI): (a) This information is not measured.

(b) This does not happen.

(c) Steps taken to improve these services are placed on the table of the Lok Sabha.

**Statement**

Statement tabled on the floor of Parliament regarding Calcutta Telephones.

1. Efforts are being made to improve Special Services, 197, 198 etc. by increasing the number of positions with an adequate number of operators and additional junctions for the Special Services to all the exchanges.

2. The following other important steps have been or are being taken to improve the Calcutta Telephone system in general:

**A—Expansion during 1977-1978**

(a) **New connections:** 15730 new telephone connections were provided. This will have the effect of lowering the pressure on the exchange equipment by reducing the calling rate.

(b) **STD Service:** STD service was introduced to Burdwan, Siliguri and Chhapara (one way). Night STD

service was introduced to eight other stations.

(c) To ensure reliable communication which does not fail due to breakdown of cables, a microwave digital link with 30 channels was commissioned on an experimental basis linking Telephone Bhavan and Cossipore exchange in the suburbs of Calcutta.

**B—Expansion planning during 1978-79**

(a) It is proposed to add additional capacity of 28,000 lines during the current year.

(b) The Calcutta Trunk Automatic Exchange is proposed to be expanded from 2000 to 2800 lines. A transit Manual Trunk Exchange with nine positions will also be commissioned to facilitate quick and effective transiting of calls.

(c) A programme has been drawn up to provide 20,000 new connections which will substantially reduce the waiting list in most of the areas.

(d) Calcutta is proposed to be connected by STD to fifteen new stations.

(e) Calcutta-London international subscriber dialling is also likely to be introduced during the current year.

(f) Microwave digital links have been planned from Telephone Bhavan to a number of outlying exchanges to provide better and reliable inter-exchange junctions which are prone to frequent thefts and breakdowns.

**C—Measures for improvement of Service**

(a) Rehabilitation of all exchanges outdoor plant and subscriber installations has been taken up for completion by 31st March, 1979.

(b) Three Crossbar exchanges have already been upgraded for better service and upgradation work in the remaining eight Crossbar exchanges is expected to be completed in a few month's time.

(c) To minimize damage to telephone cables a 4.1 Kilometer long cable duct

has been laid. More projects for laying ducts are to be executed after the current monsoon.

(d) 250 Kms. of junction cables have been pressurised. Another 200 Kms. are programmed to be pressurised by 31st March, 1979.

(e) A number of important steps like provision of moisture barriers, utilisation of jelly filled cables to prevent faults on telephone lines are being taken up.

(f) Public Grievance Cells have been opened at Telephone Bhavan and at a number of other offices so as to attend to grievances of the public.

#### **Implementation of Family Welfare Programme**

\*75. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently sent a letter to all the Chief Ministers in connection with the implementation of family welfare programme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter was addressed to all Chief Ministers on 9th May, 1978 by the Prime Minister drawing their attention to the importance of a vigorous and result-oriented implementation of the family welfare programme. In this letter the Prime Minister also conveyed the decision of the Central Government to link 8 per cent of the total annual plan financial assistance to States with their performance in the field of Family Welfare with effect from 1978-79. The Prime Minister has also addressed another letter to all Chief Ministers on

14th July, 1978 requesting them to pay attention to the programme.

(b) The Government have received replies to the letter of 9th May from the Chief Minister of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh explaining their respective position. These are under consideration.

#### **Sino-Indian relations**

\*77. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the constructive dialogue initiated between Delhi and Peking;

(b) if so, what further steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been any positive response from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As part of the process of improving beneficial contacts between the two countries, exchanges in the various technical and specialist fields have taken place or are planned for the near future. Delegations have been exchanged covering trade, agriculture, science, medicine, etc. An Indian delegation of journalists has recently visited China, and it is expected that an Indian cultural troupe will be proceeding to the People's Republic at the invitation of the Government.

The House is also aware that I have accepted in principle the invitation extended to me by my Chinese counterpart to visit China in the coming months.

These contacts and exchanges reflect the mutual desire to improve our bilateral relations as also functional