

Troposcatter Telecommunication Link with Moscow

1900. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi has been linked with Moscow by direct troposcatter telecommunication link in the recent past;

(b) if so, what was the estimated expenditure involved therein, the extent to which it is better than the previous one which circuited through London and Paris;

(c) whether a delegation of Soviet Union visited India in this regard; if so, the names and status of the leader and other members of the delegation, the names of places visited by them, duration of their stay, discussions held with Indian counter-parts and what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for not connecting various capitals of other countries like U.K., U.S.A. and France etc. by such telecommunication links?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 390 lakhs. While the troposcatter link provides direct communication channels between India and the USSR, the links via London/Paris have to cover long distances and also involve additional expenses towards payments to the countries en-route

(c) A delegation led by Mr. V. A. Shamshin, Minister of Communications USSR visited India from 28-10-1981 to 3-11-1981 in connection with inauguration of the Troposcatter Link. Other members of the delegation were:—

(i) Mr. D. I. Popov, Minister of Communications of Tadjik, USSR.

(ii) Mr. S. P. Kurilov, Chief Engineer of Glavzarubezhsvyazstroi, Ministry of Communications, USSR.

(iii) Mr. I. P. Nesterenko, Executive Secretary Soviet-Indian Joint Commission.

(iv) Mr. E. A. Motin, Head, Department of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Communications, USSR.

(v) Mr. V. N. Koptersky, Deputy Head, Department of South and South East Asia, State Committee of the USSR for Economic Relations.

The delegation visited Hyderabad and Bangalore, and some members visited Jaipur for a day for sightseeing. At New Delhi they held discussions with the Minister of Communications and officers of the Ministry of Communications on matters of mutual interest in the field of Communications. At Hyderabad the delegation visited the Electronics Corporation of India Limited which supplied the Antenna System for the Indian and the Russian terminals of the troposcatter link. At Bangalore they visited the Indian Telephone Industries Limited which supplied some equipments for the Indian terminal.

(d) Troposcatter Link are feasible only on short-medium distances, and are provided especially where other types of communication link are not feasible due to intervening terrain.

Gazetted Officers of Telephone Districts

1901. SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Gazetted Officers of the Telephone Districts are therefor over 20 years in their respective places;

(b) whether the long stay encourages vested interest and deterioration in administration; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, why this policy is not extended to non-gazetted cadres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Shortage of Telephone Operators and Telephone Mechanics in Gauhati Telephone Division

1902. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of telephone operators and telephone mechanics in Gauhati Telephone Division;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) the total number of telephone subscribers in Gauhati Division at the end of March 1982 and the total number of telephone operators and telephone mechanics there at the end of the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Replacement of Old Telephones in Assam

1903. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent telephones of the telephone subscribers in Assam are old; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Old telephone instruments of subscribers are replaced whenever found necessary.

Use of black money in elections

1904. SHRI RAM LAKHAN PRASAD GUPA:
SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reports of black money being used in elections; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated amount of black money used in the last Parliament and Assembly elections and what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to give any correct estimate of the amount of black money used in the last Parliamentary and Assembly elections. The use of black money for any purpose, including elections can be curbed only by measures aimed at preventing the generation and proliferation of black money. In this connection, measures taken such as, the intensification of searches and seizures as part of the drive against economic offences, stiffening of penal provisions in the Income-tax Act and other direct tax law in accordance with the recommendations of the Direct Taxes Inquiry Committee (Wanchoo Committee) and the enactment of legislative measures such as the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, could be mentioned.