

finalisation of the charter of demands, incentive scheme, operating the Refinery bus transport service through a private contractor etc. Following conciliation efforts, an amicable settlement was reached on 25th October, 1981 leading to restoration of normalcy.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of sub-standard material for use in Telecom Factories

777. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that P & T Department (Directorate) has received a sample of a material (made of ebonite) from the representative of All India P & T Industrial Workers' Union on the 11th September 1981, reported to have been imported from a foreign country for use in Telecom factories in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this material has reportedly been rejected by the Telecom Factory Management at Alipore, Calcutta;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have ordered an investigation into the causes of importing such substandard material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The material is not as per the prescribed specifications.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the D.G.S. & D. through whom the material has been procured, and the concerned agencies.

Improvement of Telephone Services in West Bengal

778. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the steps taken so far by Government to remove the

hardships and inconvenience to the telephone subscribers of West Bengal by improving the telephone services there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): Following steps have been taken:—

(i) Inspection of subscribers premises has been intensified.

(ii) Aluminium wire in house wiring is being progressively changed by copper wire.

(iii) Overhead iron wire alignment less than 4 spans is being replaced by drop wire progressively.

(iv) Daily watch is being kept on clearance complaints.

(v) Engine alternators have been provided in most of the exchanges.

(vi) Close supervision is being maintained to ensure that the routine maintenance tests are carried out as per prescribed schedules.

Improvement of Telephone facilities in Rural Areas

779. SHRI F. M. KHAN:

SHRI SAYED AHMAD HASHMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to improve telephone facilities in the rural areas in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to provide telephone facility at about twenty thousand new places during the current five year plan period.