

**Precautionary measures taken for the installation and maintenance of telephone cables**

\*7. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD

MATHUR:

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of precautionary measures taken by the telephone authorities in metropolitan cities in the process of installation and maintenance of telephone cables, joints, junction boxes and exchanges for protection from rains specially where the level of sub-soil water is high; and

(b) what is the number of phones that went out of order in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Kanpur due to rains during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Cables and joints are capable of functioning normally in sub-soil water. The fault develops only when the external sheath of the cable is damaged thus permitting water to pass inside the cable. The precautions taken by the Department for protection of cables and joints against rain are listed and placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The information regarding total number of telephones which became

faulty due to rain in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Kanpur are not available. However, the maximum number of telephones affected on any day during monsoon in the last three years has been collected to the extent available and is being placed on the Table of the House.

**Statement No. 1**

*Precautions for providing protection of underground cables and joints against rain*

1. Important cable routes are patrolled to detect any sinking of the route or any visible digging work going on in the route.

2. Pressurisation of cables by dry air is being done to prevent ingress of water in case of sheath faults. In small sized distribution cables where gas pressurisation is not possible, jelly filled cables are planned to be used to prevent the entry of water inside the cable.

3. All the joints are plumbed and sealed in lead sheath to make them water tight.

4. Instructions exist for keeping the doors of all junction boxes closed so that rain drops will not strike the terminals.

5. The exchanges where the sub-soil water level is known to be high, pumps are fitted in the cable chamber to pump out water which seeps in.

6. The water seals in the cable chamber are constantly observed for any damage.

**Statement No. 2**

*Maximum number of Telephones that went out of order on any day during Monsoon in the following towns.*

	1978	1979	1980
1. Madras . . . . .	1600	2000	Monsoon yet to start.
2. Bombay . . . . .	11992	19016	12546
3. Calcutta . . . . .	7293	12827	19059
4. New Delhi . . . . .	*N.A.	2759	20443
5. Kanpur . . . . .	951	935	908

\*N.A. Information not available.