

(b) Achievement Audit Committees were appointed in respect of Research Institutes only. Such Committees are constituted to conduct the achievement audit of the Research Institutes after every five years and not for the ICAR as a whole.

### Telephone Lines in Calcutta

341. SHRI KALYAN ROY:  
SHRI B. D. KHOBRADE:  
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Amrita Bazar Patrika', dated 6th July, 1980 to the effect that "Hundreds of lines become dead daily in Calcutta Telephones";

(b) what steps Government have taken to restore the lines and with what result; and

(c) whether the situation has further deteriorated in comparison to that in 1977, 1978 and 1979 and if so, what are the reasons therefor, and what remedial steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to extensive road digging activities of various agencies, damages are caused to the underground cables as a result of which several telephone lines get affected. Steps are taken to restore the lines expeditiously by deploying staff immediately.

The following long and short term measures are under implementation to reduce underground cable faults:—

(i) Pressurisation of main cables with dry air to detect damages as and when they occur.

(ii) Use of jelly filled cables in the distribution cable network where gas pressurisation is not possible.

(iii) Opening of number of cabinets and pillars as flexibility and isolation points to ensure early fault localisation and rectification.

(iv) Use of microwave media for junctions between some main exchanges. These are free from cable damage.

(c) No, Sir. In certain respects, the telecommunication operations has shown an improving trend. However, over the years, there has been an increase in the number of carried over faults and increase in the average duration per fault, due to extensive theft and damage to cables. The remedial steps are already indicated in part (b) of the answer.

### Investigation against the General Manager Telephones, Calcutta

342. SHRI KALYAN ROY:  
SHRI B. D. KHOBRADE:  
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 167 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th June, 1980 and state:

(a) whether the investigation by the Member. Telecom. Operations of Posts and Telegraphs Board into the dislocation of Calcutta telephone system and serious allegations against the General Manager, Telephones, Calcutta, has since been completed;

(b) when the enquiry started;

(c) whether the said investigating officer met the member of Parliament as requested by the M.P. in his letter dated the 12th June, 1980;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the investigation has been completed and if so, what are