

(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

the findings and what action Government have taken thereon; and

(f) if not, when it is likely to be completed?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) 4½th June, 1980 on receipt of letter of complaint.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Not yet completed.

(f) It is expected that the enquiry will be completed shortly.

Breakdown of telephone lines in Calcutta

343. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty-five to thirty per cent of the Calcutta telephone lines remain inoperative almost throughout the year;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken to arrest this breakdown of telephone lines and with what results;

(d) whether there has been any expansion of the staff and workers and officers in the Calcutta Telephone Department during the last four years; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof—category-wise from 1977 to 1980?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However the restoration time of faults is on the higher side, whenever the faults happen to be in underground cables.

(c) Several long term and short term measures have been taken to reduce cable faults. The important measures are listed below:

(i) Pressurisation of main cables with dry air.

(ii) Use of jelly filled cables in distribution cable network.

(iii) Construction of cable ducts in congested localities.

(iv) Introduction of microwave and PCM media for junctions between some main exchanges of Calcutta.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The following is the working staff statistics of Calcutta Telephones from 1977 to 1980 categorywise:

Category	As on 31-3-77	As on 31-3-78	As on 31-3-79	As on 31-3-80
Group A	74	78	79	86
Group B	212	223	234	236
Group C	9551	9671	9978	10,256
Group D	3055	2925	2834	2914
Casual Workers	2527	2645	2560	2229