

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 28th May, 1976/7th Jyaishta, 1898 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Push Button Telephones

*391. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRI HARSH DEO
MALAVIYA :†
SHRI V. B. SINGH :
SHRI HIMMAT SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of error in a push button telephone is negligible if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(b) what is the number of push button telephones so far (i) manufactured; and (ii) installed;

(c) what is the cost of a push button telephone and how it is realised from the subscriber;

(d) what is the number of subscribers who are at present on the waiting list for push button telephones in the various cities; and

(e) by when the waiting list for push button telephones is likely to be cleared and what steps have been taken to speed up its production ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the push button telephones, the pulses corresponding to the digits of the called subscriber's number are stored and transmitted in proper sequence and speed with less chance of error.

(b) (i) According to the information supplied by M/s Indian Telephone Industries, total number of push button type telephones manufactured is 581.

(ii) No push button telephone has been installed by the P&T Department, this being

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya.

1—285RSS/76

an item of direct sale by M/s Indian Telephone Industries.

(c) Indian Telephone Industries' current selling price for a push button telephone is Rs. 1860. The price of extension type instrument is Rs. 1880 each. The price is realised from the customers by I.T.I. by a direct sale.

(d) In the various cities, P&T is not required to maintain any waiting list for push button telephones as this item is to be directly sold, installed and maintained by I.T.I. on payment of necessary licence fee and other incidental charges to the P&T Department.

(e) Does not apply.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, in view of the commendable success which has been achieved, may we suppose that our I.T.I. has achieved a high degree of technological advance and, if so, has it been achieved through foreign collaboration or indigenous break-through in technology and in making this break-through, may I know what part has been played by research and development and how much has the I.T.I. spent on research and development ?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : The break-through not only in push button telephones but also in various other matters has been achieved by the I.T.I. and our research centre in Delhi and we are spending anywhere between five to ten per cent on research, depending upon what the item are.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : What is the amount ?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : will not be possible for me to give it now

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is it a fact that I.T.I. equipments have succeeded in winning global tenders from some countries and it is also exporting equipment to many countries, including some of the so-called advanced and developed countries? If so, what are the countries where we have won global tenders and which are the countries to which we are exporting our equipment and how much have we earned in foreign exchange ?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : We have won a global tenders in Surinam, in Sri Lanka and in some other countries. In regard to Sri Lanka, it is a minor thing, but the major one is in Surinam. We are also exporting to about forty countries. I cannot give the list *ad hoc*, but it includes advanced countries like Britain. In some other places we have also tendered for installation. Really speaking, I.T.I. has achieved success to such an extent that some foreign countries have complained that we do not advertise it. They find that our achievement is of a very high order and naturally developing countries would like to deal with us rather than with multi-national companies. Some of them have complained about it, but naturally we have our own limitations. Our export is limited by lack of investment in the first instance and our production itself is limited. We are not advertising it and at times where we can tender for global tenders we are unable to do it.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Have you done turn-key jobs for telephone exchanges in Nairobi, Kampala and Mombasa ?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : I will require notice for it.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, I wish to expand the ambit of the question a little bit. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that because of shortage and scarcity of spare parts, the entire telephone system of Calcutta has been thrown out of gear and according to the Additional General Manager ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you need not reply.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, if you direct him like that, what can I do ? It is a very serious situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May be, but you can put a separate question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : But it is related to that. Is it a fact that because of the shortage of equipment and spare parts—I emphasise on that—the entire telephone system in Calcutta, according to the Additional General Manager, Telephones,

Calcutta, has been thrown out of gear and 10,000 telephone connections have gone dead in the last three months ?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : Sir, I may submit that this question is about push-button telephones. The hon. Member's question on the other subject comes later. If you permit me, I can answer now; I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jagdish Joshi.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी क्या यह बतान की कृपा करेंगे कि उनके विभाग और आई० टी०आई० ने यह जो सराहनीय कार्य किया है अनुसंधान का और नया पुशबटन बनाया है, इसकी प्रगति को देखते हुए क्या उनके द्वारा संचालित आई०टी०आई० ये जो सामान्य टेलीफोन हैं इनका निर्माण भी तेजी से कर सकेगा ताकि जो वेटिंग लिस्ट है देश में टेलीफोनों के लिए वह खत्म हो सके। इसकी कोई योजना विभाग की है या नहीं ?

डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा : जहां तक सामान्य टेलीफोन और टेलीफोन इन्स्ट्रुमेंट्स का ताल्लुक है सामान्य टेलीफोन इन्स्ट्रुमेंट्स तो मिलते हैं। लेकिन टेलीफोन देने के लिए आवश्यकता होती है ट्रांशमिशन की और स्विचिंग की। उसके लिए प्रावधान करना पड़ता है, वह काफी मंहगा पड़ता है। जितना धन हमको उपलब्ध होता जा रहा है उसके अनुरूप हम कर रहे हैं और माननीय सदस्य को मैं याद दिला दूँ कि गत वर्ष में 1 लाख 60 हजार टैलीफोट हमने नये लगाये जो स्वयं में एक रिकार्ड है, और भी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मैं आपको यह भी बता दूँ कि दिल्ली में तो यह स्थिति आ गई है कि कुछ एरियाज हैं जिनमें हम बैठे हैं, वहां 48 घंटे में लोगों को टेलीफोन मिल जाते हैं। लेकिन धन और

प्रोडक्शन, स्विचिंग और ट्रांमिशन हमारे लिए बोटमनैक बना हुआ है ।

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether, even before we go in for this push-button telephone and other sophisticated equipment, the way the existing equipment is working, especially at Calcutta where our hon. Minister has not got any connection. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Again the same thing.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI : Sir, in my house in the last one month, the telephone has been out of order every alternate week. And for each number you have to make 30 diallings to get the connection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question pertains to the push-button telephones. It has nothing to do with the ordinary telephones.

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI : Sir, what I am asking is whether, instead of going in for these push-button telephones and other things, the hon. Minister would look into these affairs first.

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : Sir, the question is about an instrument, the push-button instrument. The problem in Calcutta is about transmission. In regard to the push-button telephone, the science and technology is altogether different and we have produced the push-button telephones because we want to be abreast of the world and be in the world market. That was our main idea. The latest technology should be known and we should be able to produce and tender in the world because so far as India is concerned, we are not going to provide a large number of push-button telephones except to those who have enough money to spend on it. Our ordinary telephones, our ordinary telephone instruments, are working satisfactorily at most of the places.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I would like to know whether any investigation into the total breakdown of the telephone system in Calcutta would be conducted. The CMDA. Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalyan Roy started it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes Sir, and I am continuing it. The CMDA and the telephone authorities there came into public controversy issuing statements blaming each other for the breakdown of the entire telephone system there and the result was that the public suffered. May I know from the honourable Minister whether, in such a situation, the Government would consider it necessary to hold an investigation into it in order to find out the truth as to why the system broke down in such a manner and who exactly were responsible for this rather than let the two Government institutions or semi-government institutions enter into such a public controversy? May I have an assurance from our friend, the honourable Minister, whether the telephone system in Calcutta would be something better than what it is now?

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : Sir, if you permit this supplementary, I will go into the whole question and I have no difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But there is another question.

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : Yes, Sir. There is another question and I am prepared to answer that and there is nothing to hide in this because my Department has taken a very open attitude on the whole thing. . .

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Complete inefficiency.

DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA : I do not know about it. If you can bear with me a little and if you can understand the whole explanation, then you will not repeat what you have said just now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, What is the reply to my question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is another question and while replying to that, he will reply to your question also. Next question.