

which appeared in the Ananda Bazar Patrika of the 27th April, and 1st May, 1976 regarding alleged chaos in the entire Calcutta telephone system resulting in constant breakdowns in most of the telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether is it a fact that during the period from 27th April, to 1st May, 1976 about 350 to 2500 lines in various exchanges were found to be out of order and there was a serious situation in telephone exchange No. 44;

(d) if so, what are the causes which led to this state of affairs; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) to (e) The news item and the editorial mentioned *inter-alia*, that a large number of telephone connections in Calcutta had gone out of order.

The total number of faults in the different exchanges was of the order of about 5% of the working connections. In the 44-exchange, out of the 9,000 working connections about 6% telephones were affected.

The under-ground telephone cables laid on the sides of the roads had been damaged due to various digging operations. The faults showed up after heavy showers during early April and thereafter.

Immediate repair work was initiated by mobilising all possible resources of men and material by the Calcutta Telephones. Additional staff was deployed by temporarily suspending other work. Of the telephones which went out of order towards the end of April, all except about 250 have been restored. Repair work is continuing with full force.

Availability of bauxite in Bolangir

*403. SHRI NARASINGH PRASAD NANDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated quantity of bauxite deposits in Gandhamardan in the District of Bolangir;

(b) Whether the mineral has been analysed; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to establish an aluminium plant at Titilagarh for the proper utilisation of this mineral?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) :

(a) An indicated reserve of 12 million tonnes of metal grade bauxite has so far been estimated in the Gandhamardan Hills of Bolangir District in Orissa, although there is a possibility of larger reserves being found in this area.

(b) The bauxite analyses show a content of 46—50% alumina; 18—22% ferric oxide; 1.3 to 5% silica and 1 to 3% titanium oxide.

(c) No, Sir.

कमजोर वर्गों को रोजगार प्रदान करने के लिए नयी अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना

*404. डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को रोजगार और प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिये एक नयी अप्रेंटिसशिप योजना बनाई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त योजना किन किन राज्यों में चालू कर दी गई है और इस योजना के अंतर्गत प्रत्येक राज्य में कितने लोगों को रोजगार मिला है ?

[New apprenticeship scheme for providing employment to the weaker sections]

404. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved a new apprenticeship scheme for providing employment and training to the weaker sections of the society; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the States in which the scheme has been implemented and what is the number of

† [English translation.]