

Eight-Hours Working Day for Workers I

219. SHRI D. N. DWIVEDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under consideration to introduce eight-hours working day for industrial workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): According to the provisions of the Factories Act "no adult worker shall be required or allowed to work in a factory for more than forty eight hours in any week". There is no proposal under consideration of Labour Ministry to change the existing provisions of hours of work.

Working of Calcutta Telephones

220. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRA SAD SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to streamline the Calcutta telephone system with a view to improving its performance; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in that connection?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMAJ: (a) and (b) The Department has already taken action to streamline the Calcutta Te'e-phone system. Management set up of Calcutta Telephone Distt. has been reorganised. The District has been divided into areas and put under the control of Area Managers for maintenance and operation of exchanges including cable network. Additional General Manager (Operations) is exclusively looking after the functioning of telephone systems and is constantly engaged in improvement of their performance.

As in other metropolitan cities, in Calcutta also a crash programme for identifying defects in the working of Telephone Exchanges has been initiated. Efficiency teams set up for the purpose are systematically checking up each exchange equipment both indoor and out-door. After remedial measures are taken, the performance is rechecked. A drive has also been launched to ascertain subscribers' opinion about working of their telephones.

Special repair teams have been set up for carrying out remedial measures with the least possible delay. Procedures for traffic observation for various exchanges have been revised and observations on performance of assistance, toll, trunk booking, trunk enquiry and demand service have been intensified.

These measures have resulted in considerable improvement in the working of Calcutta Telephones. This has already been reflected in the fall in subscribers' complaints, fault duration and increase in revenue earned by the District. Percentage effective trunk calls has also increased. The service quality of special services has improved. The pace of commissioning of new equipment and providing new connections has also increased.

221. [Transferred to the list March, 1976]

Absorption of Apprentices in Industries and Trade

1222. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO :

| DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

fr Will the Minister of LABOUR be "pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under "Government's consideration to bring forward any legislation for making it obligatory for industries and trade to absorb apprentices in their establishments; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Applications from Unemployed Educated for Distributorship of Fertilizers and Chemicals

223. SHRI D. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications of many individuals/organisations of educated unemployed for allotment of distributorship of fertilizers and chemicals are pending with the Fertilizers and Chemicals Division of the Hindustan Steel Limited;