

Reorganisation of Telecommunication system

*657. SHRI L. MAHAPATRO: SHRI B. D. BARMAN: SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: SHRI I. D. SINGH: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(i) what steps Government are taking to reorganise the structure of the telecommunication system on all-India basis; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to improve the telephone system in the Calcutta region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) Some proposals are under examination by the P&T Board for functional reorganisation of the P&T Circles in the field into Postal and Telecommunications Circles with a view to achieve better operational efficiency and facilitate the implementation of the Plan schemes.

(b) The steps taken by Government to improve the Telephone System in Calcutta region are given in the Statement placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(i) Adequate number of spare parts required by the Calcutta Telephones for the upkeep and the repairs of the exchange equipment and the telephone instruments have been supplied by the Indian Telephone Industries on top priority.

(ii) Further sutrolies of the required spares is being made on a continuing basis.

(iff) The over 3,000 switches which had been busied out in the various exchanges of the Calcutta Telephone System have now been repaired and brought into service.

d'v) All internal eauinment has been thoroughly checked and overhauled and is being routined as per schedule.

(v) All the joints in the exchanges have been checked for proper soldering.

(vi) Installation of additional traffic relief equipment to handle the large volume of traffic has been expedited. In '24' & '55' exchanges Traffic relief equipment has been added. In '44', '46' & '66' Exchanges, relief will be given in a month's time and in the remaining main telephone exchanges, during the next 9 to 12 months.

(vii) The number of faulty junctions between the different exchanges which were about 8 to 10% of the total number of junctions in March, 1974 have come down to 4 to 5% and this number is being gradually reduced further, by undertaking special cable repair work.

(viii) By special effort, the underground cable faults are being handled expeditiously and there has been marked improvement in the speed of repairs of cable break-downs.

(ix) The trunk automatic exchange, under installation at Calcutta, has been partially commissioned. Subscriber Trunk Dialling 'STD' from Asansol to Calcutta was introduced on the 26th of June, 1974. STD service from the various exchanges in Calcutta to Asansol would be introduced progressively during October-November this year. STD service from Kharagpur to Calcutta will be introduced during September, 1974 and the various exchanges of Calcutta to Kharagpur progressively from November to December this year. STD service with Bhubneshwar and Cuttack will be introduced by March, 1975 and with Jamshedpur by end 1976. STD service with Delhi is exiercted to be introduced during the Fifth Plan.

fx) Demand Trunk Service from Calcutta to Cuttack and Bhubneshwar was introduced on 5-6-74.

Cxi) The procedure for givinu new connections after payment and completion of formalities has been streamlined and a number of connections pendine since long have been installed. A small number of such connections is now wending installation. Attempts are beine made to provide these also expeditiously.

fxiil Bv special staffing of the Trunk Record '180' and Trunk Enquiry '181'

switch-board positions, the time to answer on these services, has been reduced and more prompt service is being provided.

(xiii) The various procedures for attending to faults and complaints have been streamlined. After the adoption of the procedure, complaints and faults are being attended to more expeditiously. The duration of faults is smaller and the number of carried over faults has been reduced.

(xiv) Centralised service observation of the calls passing through the Calcutta Telephone network has shown an improvement by 10% from the position in March.

(xv) Inspection of the installation at subscribers premises and private branch exchanges is being carried out on the basis of a special schedule.

(xvi) Power shedding continues in different areas of Calcutta. To meet this situation, direct power feeder cable has been laid for the '47' exchange. The work for laying direct power feeder cables to the '24' and the '35' Exchanges is in progress. '12' and '23' and '33' and '34' exchanges already have direct power feeder cables. These Exchanges will not be subjected to power shedding problems. Examination has shown that it is not feasible to provide direct feeders for the remaining exchanges. Except in '58' and '66' exchanges, engine alternators have been provided to take over the exchange load in the remaining exchanges. Action is being taken to provide engine alternators in these two exchanges also. For two other exchanges, '44' and '41/46', larger capacity engine alternators are being provided.

(xvii) After discussion with the West Bengal State authorities, special liaison has been established with the local law and order authorities to minimise thefts of under-ground cables. It is expected that soon the interruptions to the service due to thefts of cables would be minimised.

(xviii) Close coordination has been established with the various agencies engaged in road digging operations. The damage to underground cables by road digging work is being gradually reduced.

(xix) The management set up of the Calcutta Telephones has been strengthened

and the maintenance work is being organised on an Area basis.

Criticism by the IAS Officers' Association of the Speech of a Member of Parliament

*658. SHRI I. D. SINGH:

SHRI L. MAHAPATRO:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in August, 1973, the I.A.S. Officers' Association of Orissa passed a resolution criticising the speech of a Member of Parliament on the Floor of the Rajya Sabha for his critical remarks against the Chief Secretary to the Government of Orissa;

(b) whether the Central Government have made any enquiry in the matter: and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The Government of Orissa from whom the facts were ascertained has informed us that the President of the IAS Officers' Association has stated that no Member of the Rajya Sabha has been criticised at any meeting of the Association. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association, held on 11-8-1973, a Resolution was passed expressing its distress over some derogatory remarks made on the floor of the House against a member of the Service and felt that criticism of individual officers who were in no position to defend themselves was a sad development which should be brought to the notice of the authorities and that a deputation should wait on the Governor to request him to take the matter up with the Central Government. As the matter pertained to the State Government, a letter received in this regard was forwarded to the Government of Orissa for such action as may be necessary.