

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN. Of course, whether it is implemented or not is a different matter but as far as priorities are concerned the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or the landless people are on the priority list. If he has got any specific case in mind I would like him to communicate with me.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN Sir, the Home Minister has said that in addition to the efforts that are being made by the Government, efforts should also be made by public leaders of all parties. In the course of the discussion on the Report a suggestion was made that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr G. Ramachandran, Secretary of the Gandhi Foundation, should be set up consisting of all political parties in Parliament. I would like to know whether that has come to the notice of the Home Minister and if so, what his reaction is to that.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN My reaction at present is nil because really speaking I do not know about this proposal.

एर्णाकुलम और शिलोंग में क्रॉसबार  
टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज

\*526 श्री राम सहाय क्या सचार्  
मन्त्री यह बतान की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) दो क्रॉसबार टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज  
जिनमें एक 3000 लाइनों का एर्णाकुलम में  
और दूसरा शिलोंग में स्थापित किये जाने  
के क्या स्थापित कर दिये हैं और

(ख) यदि नहीं तो अब तक वे स्थापित  
कर दिये जायेंगे

†[CROSSBAR TELEPHONE EX-  
CHANGES IN ERNAKULAM AND  
SHILLONG

\*526 SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the  
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether the two Crossbar  
telephone exchanges, one of which

consisting of 3000 lines which was to  
be installed at Ernakulam and the  
other at Shillong, have since been  
set up, and

(b) if not, by when they will be  
set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI I. K. GUJRAL). (a) The 3,000 lines Automatic Exchange at  
Ernakulam and the 2,000 lines Auto-  
matic Exchange at Shillong are both  
under installation.

(b) Both these exchanges are likely  
to be commissioned by the middle of  
1968.

†[सम्बन्धित तथा सचार् विभागों में  
राष्ट्र मन्त्री (श्री आइ. के. गुजराल)  
(क) एर्णाकुलम में 3,000 लाइन का  
स्वचल एक्सचेंज और शिलोंग में 2,000  
लाइन का स्वचल एक्सचेंज दोनों ही स्थापित  
किये जा रहे हैं।

(ख) ये दोनों ही एक्सचेंज 1968 के  
मध्य तक चालू हो जाएंगे।]

श्री राम सहाय क्या मन्त्री महादय से  
यह जान सकुंगा कि इस प्रकार का लाइन  
और कहा-कहा पर भविष्य में लगाने का  
विचार है ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL. Sir, while it  
may be difficult for me to give a  
complete list where we are going to  
use cross-bar exchanges, I can say this  
that increasingly we are shifting to  
cross-bar wherever we are installing  
new equipment. This year the Indian  
Telephone Industry will be in a posi-  
tion to manufacture approximately  
seventy thousand lines for various  
exchanges and we are allotting priori-  
ties. Wherever we are installing new  
exchanges we go in for the cross-bar  
and wherever expansion takes place  
we stick to the old one.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA.  
I do not know what this cross-bar in-  
stallation means, but I want to ex-

†[ ] English translation.

press my difficulties. Whenever I want to speak to Hyderabad I am told that the line is out of order. Is there any means of rectifying this? It is disgusting that every morning or every night I am told this. Being the only woman away from home, I have so many responsibilities at home . . .

AN HON MEMBER: Women are operating the telephone

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: Why are you excited about it? I want to know whether you can do something to rectify this.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the 'cross-bar' is concerned, I will try to explain it to the hon Member in one word. This is an age of computerisation. Therefore, in the modernisation of the exchanges a new system has been evolved whereby a so-called central brain is established which takes the entire information with regard to the called number and then routes the call directly or *via* alternative routes to the destination. This is the latest system and it is easier to maintain. This is the technical aspect of it. So far as Hyderabad is concerned, I will definitely take note of what the hon. Member has said. I can assure her of one thing more . . .

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: Why not have an alternative line?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: We are trying to put up a complete network of automatic trunk dialling in all the main cities and commencing by about next year it will be possible for us to have direct dialling between such of the cities as are connected to those exchanges.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I would like to know from the hon Minister whether the Department has purchased this cross-bar exchange and, if so, from which country and how much foreign exchange is involved. May I know whether global tenders were invited or the cross-bar exchange?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: In the earlier stages we entered into a collaboration agreement with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company, Belgium. We are now manufacturing it ourselves in the ITI. We only initially imported to learn the know-how. Now the ITI is manufacturing it and we have achieved self-sufficiency.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Is the hon Minister aware that the Ernakulam exchange, operated as a manual exchange, is very badly and inadequately staffed and on account of the same the subscribers are put to a great deal of trouble. Even calls in respect of fire services are not being attended to on account of the inadequacy of staff to a large extent and to some extent due to the negligence of the operators in the Ernakulam telephone exchange and as a result a big dramatic tent and the equipment were completely lost by fire. The telephone operators refused to put a call through to the fire service station in time recently at Ernakulam.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: As the hon Member knows there are three exchanges, in the area *viz* one in Cochin, the second in Willingdon Island and the third in Ernakulam proper. Now, Willingdon Island and Cochin have already got automatic exchanges. So far as Ernakulam is concerned, we are now making it automatic and by about the middle of next year it will be fully automatic. So far as the services of the operators are concerned, well, I very much regret that they are not up to the mark, but the hon Member will agree with me that most of it has a political slant about it and for which the hon Member's Party is partly responsible.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: The hon Minister mentioned earlier about the modernisation of the telephone exchanges. I would like to know from the hon Minister what exactly is the difficulty in this. You can have direct dialling from here to Banaras or from here to Kanpur and some other places.

but why is it there is no direct telephone dialling system from Banaras to Mognal Sarai or from Brindaban to Mathura, which is within a distance of 8 miles?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as modernisation is concerned, the hon. Member will agree with me that telecommunication itself is modernisation. So far as the improvement of certain lines is concerned, there are two basic aspects of it. Originally we started with all the lines being overhead copper wires. Due to the vulnerability of overhead lines to frequent interruptions and thefts, we are now increasingly shifting to underground cables or the microwave system. By the end of Fourth Plan we expect to complete about 17,000 kms. of the microwave and coaxial cables on various trunk routes. About the suggestion that the hon. Member has mentioned, I am not in a position to straightway say when they will make that section automatic, but I will make a note of it.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: In view of the political aspect of the reply given by the hon. Minister to my earlier question, may I ask the hon. Minister what he means by that and secondly may I ask the hon. Minister whether he knows that on account of the absolute inadequacy of staff in the Ernakulam telephone exchange, the staff is put to great trouble and the facilities normally to be provided to the telephone operators in a commercial town like Ernakulam are not being provided and attended to by the P and T Department

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: This was exactly what I mentioned as politics being brought in. So far as staff is concerned, it is not inadequate, because staff is provided according to the yardstick fixed by us. The complaint has been caused due to various movements there and the staff has not been working properly. The hon. Member himself knows that about two weeks before there was some trouble about "go slow", which caus-

ed some inconveniences to the subscribers, which we regret very much. But you should understand that one reason . . .

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: I deny it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Let me finish. It was not motivated by any inadequacy of staff. It was primarily motivated by things other than services.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister . . .

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given him permission.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If the Kerala lady wants to speak, let her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Kerala lady. You speak.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: After all we sympathise with the Congress Members from Kerala, as you know, for obvious reasons. Now, the hon. Minister, in reply to a question, suddenly brought in politics. Since he brought it, may I ask him whether it is part of politics to go on tapping all the telephones of Members and especially from the Opposition and what assurance do we have from Mr. Chavan and from the Minister concerned that we can have our conversation without our being interrupted in this manner, whether in Ernakulam or in Delhi because . . .

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Sir, I have a point of order. Read the heading of the question. It is "Crossbar telephone exchanges in Ernakulam and Shillong." Read the contents. His question does not arise either out of the heading or out of the contents and I do not know how it is being permitted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: "Crossbar" is there and my question relates to "cross-bar". There is cross conversation . . .

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Cross-talk.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Is there any bar? I should like to know whether we are going to have that kind of assurance where not only the cross-bar problem will not be there, but also this kind of interruption and interference with the telephone communication will not be there. It has become one of the greatest risks in our communication system.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** I would like to take this opportunity first to categorically deny that there is any tapping going on. The hon. Member unfortunately suffers from some sort of an obsession. The difficulty at the moment is that whenever there is a slight defect in the mechanism, or a small disturbance, or a tick of noise that comes, the hon. Member thinks that tapping is going on. I would like to assure him that no tapping is going on, and we are not at all interested in what the hon. Member says on the telephone because he writes more often.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Dr. B. C. Roy once told the present Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu, "your telephone had been tapped; what you had talked to Delhi I had already got".

**SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS:** With the cross-bar arrangement in Delhi we get so much of cross talks. Without the cross-bar we get that in Kottayam and other places also. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the remedies he is envisaging. It becomes so difficult. In the case of trunk calls which are made to the South, we find it very difficult to get it; it is not audible. What are the remedies?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** The hon. Member is mixing up cross-bar and cross talk. These are two different things, and cross-bar is a remedy to stop the cross talk. The main difficulty at the moment is that there is so much of pressure on the lines that sometimes calls do get mixed up. At the moment we are taking steps to see that the service improves, and I

hope in the near future we will be able to give satisfaction.

**SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:** May I know whether the Government have issued instructions to the telephone operators only to speak in Hindi and not in English? Whenever I wanted to book a call or whenever I wanted to take the help or assistance on a directory reference, they only speak in Hindi. Even after my explaining the difficulty of my not understanding Hindi, the operators are not co-operating with me. They only speak in Hindi. I do not know the plight of the foreigners, leave aside the question of people from non-Hindi-speaking areas.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** This question does not arise from this. You have stated your grievance. That is all right.

**DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH:** In future nothing like this will happen.

#### VICE-CHANCELLORS OF UNIVERSITIES

\*527. **SHRI A. M. TARIQ:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Members of Parliament on Education has strongly disapproved of the practice of appointing politicians and retired Government servants as Vice-Chancellors of Universities; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard.

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN):** (a) The Committee of Members of Parliament on Education was not generally in favour of utilizing the authority to appoint Vice-Chancellors to reward or accommodate retired officials or politicians who did not, on the basis of their personal attainments, qualify for such appointment.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of Government.

**SHRI A. M. TARIQ:** May I know from the hon. Minister what makes