

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ तक प्रोपेगन्डा का सवाल है, यह बात ठीक है कि बहुत सों ऐसी बातें कही गई धर्म के बारे में जो ठीक नहीं हैं और अक्सर जब उनके बारे में जांच पड़ताल की गई वह कही गई बातें असत्य मानो गईं। जहाँ तक जयप्रकाश नारायण जो के वक्तव्य का सवाल है, वह मैंने तो अभी तक देखा नहीं है पर जो उन्होंने कहा है वह काफी हद तक सही है।

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Has the Government received any information from the Government of Bihar or from any source that coercive methods were used for the conversion of these people to Christianity?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I have already replied to this question that we have come across certain instances where preferential treatment was given to certain people in certain areas of Bihar who were converted from one religion to another. This is the only instance that has come to our notice so far.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Before or after conversion?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: During conversion and after.

APPLICATION FOR NEW CONNECTIONS IN JULLUNDUR, LUDHIANA AND AMRITSAR

♦125. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for new telephone connections pending in Jullundur, Ludhiana and Amritsar and the reasons for delay in providing the telephones; and

(b) by when the majority of the applicants will be provided with telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The number of applicants for new connections pending in Jullundur, Ludhiana and Amritsar is 250, 4529 and 1691 respectively. Regarding Jullundur the position is generally satisfactory and connections are being provided within a reasonable time. Regarding Amritsar a small amount of capacity is available and connections are being provided. Regarding Ludhiana there is no spare capacity available. Special measures have been taken to provide relief quickly including opening of a third exchange in this town.

tb) (i) At Jullundur telephone connections are being provided to the pending applicants.

(ii) At Amritsar 300 new connections are in the process of being provided. Further expansion by 1600 lines is expected to be completed by mid 1968. Majority of the applicants will be provided with telephones by March, 1969.

(iii) Regarding Ludhiana additional capacity to the extent of 1500 lines will be made available during next year commencing from December, 1967 and connection to the extent will be provided progressively.

श्री जगत नारायण : वजीर साहब ने जो जवाब दिया है उसके साथ उन्होंने जो आँकड़े पेश किये हैं उसमें उन्होंने बताया है कि जालंधर में 250 अप्लीकेशन पेंडिंग हैं, लुधियाना में 4529 हैं और अमृतसर में 1691 हैं। तो मैं उनसे यह

पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनको यह मालूम है कि चूंकि वह पंजाब के रहने वाले हैं, लुधियाना बड़ा इंडस्ट्रियल सेन्टर है, वहां पर 10,000 के करीब इंडस्ट्रियल हाउसेज हैं और वह विदेशी मुद्रा देश को कमा कर देता है अपनी इंडस्ट्रीज के जरिये, तो फिर क्या वजह है कि वहां न अटोमेटिक सिस्टम है और न वहां अभी तक इतने कनेक्शंस दिये गये हैं जैसा कि उनके जवाब से मालूम देता है कि कोशिश करने के बाद वे 1500 कनेक्शन्स दे सकेंगे। क्या वजह है कि जो लुधियाना को इस तरह से नजरअंदाज किया गया जब कि वह पंजाब में इंडस्ट्रियल के लिहाज से दूसरे नम्बर में है।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : जनाबवाला जहां तक लुधियाना का ताल्लुक है आनरेबल मेम्बर ने जो फर्माया वह ठीक है कि लुधियाना एक बहुत बड़ा इम्पार्टेंट इंडस्ट्रियल सेन्टर है। शायद आनरेबल मेम्बर को यह ज्ञान होगा कि 1947 में लुधियाना में सिर्फ 131 टेलीफोन थे, इस वक्त वहां 2,057 टेलीफोन हैं। एक्सपेंशन प्रोग्राम जो हमारा है वह यह है कि इस साल के अखिर तक—अगले साल के अखिर तक—नहीं यानी दिसम्बर से लेकर हम हर महीने 200 लाइनें नयी देने की चेष्टा करेंगे और इस तरह अगले साल के दमियान तक 1500 लाइनें देने की कोशिश करेंगे। इसके अलावा जो बड़ा प्रोग्राम है लुधियाना का वह यह है कि वहां एक बड़ा एक्सचेंज हम बना रहे हैं और 1970-71 में 6000 लाइनों का एक नया टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज वहां लग जायेगा।

श्री जगत नारायण : वजीर साहब ने बतलाया कि वह आगे दिसम्बर तक वहां 1500 फोन कनेक्शन्स देंगे। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले चार साल से वहां

पर टेलीफोन के लिये मकान तजवीज किया जा रहा है, क्या वजह है कि वह चार साल तक मकान ही तामीर नहीं हो सका और क्या इस साल मकान की तामीर हो जायेगी टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के लिये। दूसरा सवाल यह है कि वजीर साहब पिछले दिनों जालंधर तशरीफ ले गये थे। जालंधर में अखबार-नवीसों के 13 रोजाना अखबार हैं, उनको पता है कि बेकाफी सर्विस करते हैं पंजाब की तो वहां उनसे कहा गया था कि टेलीफोन का इंतजाम कर दिया जायेगा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वहां टेलेक्स का इंतजाम कब तक हो जायेगा। अभी तक वहां कोई नामोनिशान नहीं है कि टेलेक्स का इंतजाम वहां पर हो सकता है या नहीं।

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक जालंधर का सवाल है टेलेक्स के मुताल्लिक जालंधर में मैंने एक प्रोग्राम अखबारनवीसों को बताया था कि जो प्रोग्राम हमारा टेलेक्स लगाने का है वह उसी हिसाब से चलेगा, यानी अगले साल तक टेलेक्स का एक्सचेंज खोला जायेगा। और जहां तक अखबारनवीसों की तकलीफ का ताल्लुक है वह तकलीफ दूर हो जायेगी।

दूसरी चीज जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा वह लुधियाना के एक नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के मुताल्लिक है। जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया, लुधियाना का एक नया अटोमेटिक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज 1970-71 तक चालू हो जायेगा और जो प्रोग्राम बनाया गया है उसके हिसाब से उसके ऊपर पूरी तरह पाबंदी ली जायेगी। लेकिन एक बात मैं कहूंगा कि हमने यह अहसास किया है कि यह तीन चार साल का अरसा काफी लम्बा है इसीलिये इस बात का खयाल करके हमने 1500 नई लाइनें देने के लिये अभी टेम्परेरी इंतजाम किया हुआ है।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
I would like to know from the Minis-

ter what is the total number of applicants waiting for connections throughout India and whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in many cases connections are not given and that the Department pleads its inability to do so for want of cables and wires and whether the Government is thinking of converting this Department into a corporation so that these things can be attended to quickly and expeditiously?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, the telephone connections are expanding fast in this country. I will give only one instance. In March, 1951 we had 1,68,400 telephones working throughout the country. In March, 1967 we have 9,64,000. And by the end of the Fourth Plan we will have 15 lakhs telephones working throughout the country. In spite of that, the demand is increasing very fast. The waiting list which was 29,000 at the end of the First Plan was 3.5 lakhs at the end of the Third Plan and it will rise to nine lakhs at the end of the Fourth Plan, in spite of the fact that our expansion programme is continuing. The main reason is that there is paucity of funds. We do not have money to expand as fast as we would like to. According to our estimate, the real requirement of the country by the end of the Fourth Plan should be four million telephones, and according to the Bhabha Committee it should be six million telephones. Now obviously, when the requirement is six millions and we are able to give only 1.5 million connections, the troubles will all be there and the only remedy is to invest more money in this.

The hon. Member has also mentioned about the formation of a public sector corporation. This is one of the suggestions which have been mooted and this is under examination.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: How many applications are pending in the capital of Haryana and Punjab, Chandigarh, and when do they expect that its demand will be fulfilled?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, I will not be in a position to give the exact number of pending applications in Chandigarh. But with the opening of the automatic telephone exchange at Chandigarh recently, most of the needs have been met and Chandigarh is not one of our present problems.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: May I know the average time taken to comply with an application for telephone connection?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: There are two or three types of applications which are made. One is under 'Own Your Own Telephone' scheme. The other is under the exempted categories like education, social work, etc. And the third is the normal waiting list. The time taken varies from town to town. For example, I would like to give the hopeful instance of Jullundur. I was there last month and I saw that we could meet all the requirements of the waiting list there and therefore, by the end of the next three months, in Jullundur there will be no waiting list. But that I cannot say about the bigger towns where the waiting lists will go on expanding.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Sir, it is good that the Department is giving more and more connections. But has it been brought to their notice that the more the telephones the less the efficiency; the more the telephones the more the confusion and the more the telephones the more the mismanagement in the accounting of telephone bills? Even for paltry sums of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 telephone connections are cut even without giving any notice or by giving notice on the telephone. Will he look into all this mismanagement and instead of increasing the number of telephones bring more efficiency in the working of the telephone system?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: My hon. friend has rightly and pointedly brought to notice and focussed the difficulties that we are faced with. While I do plead guilty to a part of the charge that the telephone service is not as efficient as it should be it has

two aspects. One is personnel and the other is mechanical. The mechanical aspect is entirely dependent upon the money that is to be invested. At the moment we are catering to about 20-25 per cent. of the genuine demand of the country. The result is that the pressure on the telephone exchange is considerably more than what it should be. In the other House I gave an example that if a road is 20 ft. wide and it can take only a particular number of cars. But if you drive six times the number the traffic jam is inevitable.

The second aspect is the personnel part of it. The personnel part of it is slightly more difficult. There are certain difficulties and certain frustrations. The basic need is that the standard of education of the operators must be improved which again in terms of money means more investment and this is under our active examination as to how to give more education so that efficient service can be dispensed to the customers.

SERVICES OF SHRI A. S. BAM

*126. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the services of Shri A. S. Bam have been placed at the disposal of the United Nations;

(b) whether his services were requisitioned by the United Nations by name or he was nominated by the Government of India to go on deputation to the United Nations; and

(c) whether it was within the knowledge of Government that Shri A. S. Bam was required by the A. K. Sarcar Committee for evidence regarding steel deals probe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The name of Shri A. S. Bam was sponsored by the Government of India for an assignment under the United Nations in 1965. Shri Bam was not selected by the United Nations for that assignment but he was selected by them in March, 1967, as U.N. Resident Representative in Belgrade.

(c) The Committee have not so far indicated that it would require Shri Bam to appear personally to give evidence. If the Committee wishes to examine Shri Bam he will be called to India for the purpose.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister of State whether the Government of India was aware at the time of nominating him that he was the Chief Controller of Iron and Steel at the time of steel deals about which the Public Accounts Committee have made complaints and as such he was the star witness before the A. K. Sarcar Committee?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: This was known to the Government, but at that time his presence in India was not required. Even now the Sarcar Committee has not called him for personal evidence. If the Committee requires him for personal evidence, he will certainly be called by the Government.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India will deny the charge that the bureaucracy first tried to send Mr. Bhoothalingam outside India so that the work of the Sarcar Committee could be hampered and when they did not succeed in that attempt they sent away Mr. Bam outside India so that there is no progress in the work of this Committee and all these scandalous deals do not come to light?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:

Sir, it is very unfair to cast general aspersions. As a matter of fact there may have been certain attempts