

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: In his reply the hon. Minister stated that non-availability of materials was the main reason for not supplying these telephones. May I know how much time it will take, according to the department, to supply these materials from the workshops he has mentioned?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: We are taking steps to increase the production but it is very difficult to say when we will be self-sufficient to wipe out the waiting list.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know how many telephones are manufactured annually and how soon these two lakhs or so applicants on the waiting list are proposed to be supplied with telephones?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, the position, as has been stated in the reply, is that there is shortage both, of finance and materials. We are not getting the allocation from the Planning Commission as much as we require for the expansion of the telephone communication facilities. If we get the necessary monetary provision, we can expand the capacity of the workshops and manufacture more of telephones. The telephone instrument is the least part of the system. It is the line stores which are important. There is shortage of cables, wires and equipment and we are not manufacturing our full requirements in the country. The Hindustan Cables is also planning for expansion; we are also going to expand the telephone factory. We do not envisage a time in the very near future when we will be in a position to supply telephones on demand.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know if the Plan allotment for the production of telephones is being fully utilised from year to year?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: We have spent about Rs. 16 crores in the first

two years of the Plan out of Rs. 35 crores earmarked for extension of local telephone service; we hope to fulfil the targets.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any priorities have been drawn out for supplying telephones in the various cities and States, because I find that in some of the cities, especially in Delhi, the list of waiting applicants is increasing day by day?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The priorities are there, but the main difficulty, as has been stated, is due to this shortage. So the waiting list is increasing and by the end of the Third Plan it may be much more than what it was at the end of the Second Plan. But as the hon. Minister has already stated, we hope to wipe out this list very soon.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I want to know if the priority is fixed after taking into consideration the fact that there is this shortage of materials? Is the priority fixed thereafter?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As the hon. Member is aware, there are certain priorities fixed for the allotment of telephones. But there is this shortage and the demand is everywhere. It is not as if there is shortage only in Delhi. There is shortage in Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, in every Circle. So we cannot determine that Delhi will have preference over other places. We have our plans and we try within the limits of our financial and material resources, to provide as many telephones as possible.

#### REPORT ON UMESHNAGAR TRAIN ACCIDENT

\*93. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when the report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety who enquired into the train accident

at Umeshnagar on the North-Eastern Railway will be published;

(b) whether the Railway Board have examined the recommendations contained in the report; and

(c) whether any action has been initiated for implementation of those recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) The Commissioner of Railway Safety has not finalised his report so far. The question of publication of the report will be considered by the Ministry of Transport and Communications after the final report is received.

(b) The recommendations contained in the preliminary version of the report have been examined by the Railway Board.

(c) Action has been initiated in respect of accepted recommendations.

SHRI A. SUBBA RAO: What are the recommendations that have been accepted and what action has been taken on the basis of those recommendations?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The recommendations have a bearing on the findings and also some persons are likely to be prosecuted. So, it is not advisable to give an indication as to the recommendations.

\*94. [The questioner (Shri Surjit Singh Atwal) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 566-567 infra.]

#### DAKOTA CRASH NEAR PATHANKOT

\*95. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the cause of the Dakota crash near Pathankot on the 3rd June, 1963?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): The cause of the Dakota crash is under investigation by a Court of Enquiry.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if there is any truth in the wide-spread rumour that this accident took place because of metal fatigue and that the plane had it before it took off and so it should not have taken off at all?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I am not sure to what report the hon. Member is referring to. The whole question of the cause of the accident is under investigation by a court of enquiry presided over by a retired Chief Justice of a High Court and I think I should not anticipate any reasons for the crash.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the factor of metal fatigue is also one of the terms of reference for this enquiry?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: It is not necessary that there should be such a term of reference. If there are any suspicions which are reported, the court of enquiry can ask for expert evidence about it.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: While paying the insurance amounts, according to the rules of Civil Aviation, to the staff which was on the plane, there has been some discrimination made and the steward had been paid much less than the other staff who were on the plane. Why was that?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: They are paid according to the rules and the rules lay down what will be paid for the different grades of employees and they will be paid according to their grades.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: Does the Minister receive any preliminary report about these accidents?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: No we have not received any.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, may I . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Tariq. This will be your last question.