

public, because there is a heavy overload on the telephone-system in Delhi and with the limited resources it has not been possible to cope with the demands. However, effective steps have been taken to improve the situation. One exchange will be opened at Delhi Gate and I think it will be opened by the end of this year. With that the situation will be much better so far as Old Delhi is concerned. The opening of the Jorbagh Telephone Exchange has considerably improved the situation in the New Delhi areas. And then for improvement in the trunk service from Delhi, certain other measures have been taken and I may mention some of them. Firstly, the subscriber trunk dialing has been introduced between Delhi and Agra in July, 1962. A co-axial cable between Delhi and Calcutta linking important places has been laid, except in the portion from Kanpur to Varanasi where work is in progress. This section also will be completed within the current financial year. A co-axial cable has been planned between Calcutta and Bombay, linking important places and routes, for execution during the current Plan. Another co-axial cable is proposed to be laid during the current Plan linking Delhi and Bombay and other important places and routes. And finally, as an interim measure it is proposed to provide additional circuit between Delhi and Bombay within this financial year by effecting certain re-arrangements in the existing carrier system.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: May I know whether the Government is conscious of the fact that there is inefficiency throughout the country?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I don't think that throughout the country there is inefficiency.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAYVARGIYA: I want to know, since in Delhi itself there are so many complaints about the telephone system, whether the Government is thinking of re-

placing some of the machines with new machines so that the same complaint may not come over and over again from the same number.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I have already enumerated some of the measures that we have taken.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the telephone lines of Members of Parliament are tapped by the police or not.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: No.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Is an adequate knowledge of English insisted upon in the case of the telephone staff? I find that in many cases they are not able to understand what we say.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I don't think that they cannot understand English. Their standard is matriculation.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Will the hon. Deputy Minister please enquire about it?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Yes.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know whether the three-language formula will be insisted upon, in the case of the employees of the Telephone Department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: After they had gone through the schools.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I think it is too much to expect these telephone operators to know three languages.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION TO LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE

•217, SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS): Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what are the basic principles on which selection of candidates for admission to the Lady Hardinge Medical College is made;

(b) whether it is a fact that candidates who have passed B.Sc. with higher percentage of marks are not selected while those who have passed I.Sc. or Pre-medical with less percentage of marks are selected; and

(c) if so, what is the justification for this preference being given to less qualified candidates?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR) : (a) and (b) (i) B.Sc. 1st Division candidates with one or more subjects of Biology, Physics and Chemistry and with medical group of subjects in the I.Sc. are admitted without any formalities.

(ii) B.Sc. 2nd Division and 3rd Division candidates are judged on the basis of their I.Sc./Pre-Medical marks. These candidates get no preference over I.Sc./Pre-medical candidates; and

(iii) I.Sc./Pre-medical candidates are admitted on the basis of the marks obtained at the University/Board examination.

(c) Selection is made on the basis of merit, i.e., marks obtained in the I.Sc./Pre-Medical examinations. It is felt that candidates who receive lower marks in these examinations should not have preference over those with higher marks merely by passing the B.Sc. in the 2nd or the 3rd Division.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI (GOPIDAS): Is it not a fact that the B.Sc. students have more knowledge in the science subjects than the I.Sc. students and so is it not fair that they should be considered at least on a par with the I.Sc. students?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: The students' knowledge of science subject.; that is required for medical studies is considered adequate by the time they finish the Inter Science course. A student who has not been able to secure adequate marks in the Inter-Science test merely by spending two extra years in the B.Sc. course should not get any preference, unless the stu-

dent is so outstanding that he or she is able to get a first class in the B.Sc.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: In the case of admissions, mostly the third-divisioners are excluded. But a third-divisioner can improve his knowledge or her knowledge by proper study later on. If the student has made up his mind even then that student does not get the chance unless and until a competitive examination is held . . .

Ms. CHAIRMAN: Are you expressing an opinion or putting a question?

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: ... a competitive examination being considered a test of merit rather than marks obtained in the other tests.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have expressed your opinion. The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

URBAN AND RURAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES RECOMMENDED BY NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COMMITTEE

*218. SHRI JAI NARAIN VYAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the urban assessment committees and rural assessment committees have been formed to make a complete and correct assessment of the urban and rural situation State-wise regarding water supply and sanitation in the State, as recommended by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Committee in 1960-61;

(b) if so, what are the States that have set up such committees; and

(c) what recommendations have those committees made to the Government of India?