

of this Metropolitan area. May I know whether the Government of India will take any financial responsibility for the development of this National Capital Region as well?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, the National Capital Region is a very much larger area than the Metropolitan area, and it includes, as the statement shows, the towns of Sonapat, Panipat, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sonapat and Palwal in the Punjab and Bagpat, Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr and Khurja in the U.P. Now, for all this big region, a joint authority of the State Governments concerned and the Government of India will think out and plan as to what should be done. What will be the financial arrangement is not at the moment decided. Probably the expenses of implementation within the State area will be met from the State Government's Plan and such assistance as the Central Government thinks necessary will be worked out according to the usual pattern.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know whether the Government of India will prepare any plan for the development of this National Capital Region within which the States will be allowed to work?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, what is proposed is a Metropolitan Council and three planning authorities for the three State areas concerned. What will be the responsibility of the overall authority and what will be the responsibility of the regional authorities, will be worked out carefully and it will come before Parliament before it is finalised.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: When can we expect to get a complete idea of it? When will the Government be in a position to make this complete plan?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: The formation of a complete plan is not a thing that can be done very quickly. What is proposed is that the State Govern-

ments concerned and the Government of India together, should decide that this is an area which should be developed in a particular fashion. Once that decision is taken, Sir, the details will be worked out as required.

#### COMPLAINT ABOUT WORKING OF TELEPHONES IN DELHI

\*216. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a general complaint regarding efficiency in the working of telephones in Delhi, both local and trunk; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase the efficiency of the service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Complaints are received from time to time.

(b) All specific complaints are attended to promptly. General efforts to improve the quality of service by improving the maintenance are also being made. The main problem, however, is of inadequacy of telephone services and the extra-ordinarily heavy load that the existing services are subjected to. Expansion of the system to the extent possible with available resources is being undertaken.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I ask whether the hon. Minister at the meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee for telephones admitted that he was conscious of the defects and the complaints about the working of the telephone system in Delhi and did he not say that measures will be taken to improve the system? May I know what efforts have been made up till now to improve this system?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Well, it has been admitted that it has not been possible to give full satisfaction to the

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 VIJAIVAR-GIYA:** 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 (GOPI-DAS):** 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;