

included or not, but that point may be taken into consideration.

"OWN YOUR TELEPHONE" SCHEME

*149. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to extend the "Own Your Telephone" Scheme to other places in India besides the six in which it is operating at present; and

(b) if so, where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Not at present.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know if it is the experience of the Ministry that this system has not worked well?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It has done tremendously well. There is no doubt about it that at a time when we were suffering from a scarcity of telephones in so many towns and cities, this system came in handy for an equitable distribution of the advantage or benefit of the services of "the telephone".

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Sir, may I know the reasons for not extending it to other towns and cities?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We established committees only in such cities where we experienced a chronic or long standing type of malady of shortage of telephones.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in several cities and towns, there is great difficulty experienced by the public in getting telephone connections?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, the supply and demand for telephones are going apace. As a matter of fact, from year to year, we find ourselves always outrun by the demand even keeping in view the expansion that we are able to achieve. Therefore, I am not surprised if there is a demand for telephones in the towns. But, by and large, we have been able to meet it.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मा० मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि देहली खास में ऐसी कितनी दरखास्तें हैं जो इस स्कीम के तहत पेडिंग पड़ी हुई हैं और कितने लोगों को टेलीफोन के कनेक्शन नहीं मिल सके?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं इसके वास्ते नोटिस चाहूंगा, परन्तु याददाश्त से कुछ समय पहले का नम्बर दे सकता हूँ जो कि करीब ५०० था, उनमें से कितनों को मिल चुका है यह नहीं बता सकता ।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is there any demand for this system of 'Own Your Telephone' from other big cities also apart from those six where this system has been introduced?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The basic principle on which this committee was instituted was to apportion or allot telephones in an equitable way and these committees were set up only in such places where the demand for telephones was much higher than the number of telephones at the disposal of the telephone exchange concerned.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: May I ask what steps the Government are taking to increase the number of telephones produced so that this demand can be met very easily?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we have established the I. T. I.—a well-known factory—for the manufacture of telephone instruments, carrier equipment and telephone exchange equipment. We have established

certain institutions for the training of technical hands. But the question remains that the entire thing depends upon the allotment of funds under the Second Plan. I must say, Sir, that the funds at the disposal of the Telephone Department are far short of the required needs for expansion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: According to the plans of the Ministry, how long will it take to introduce this system at least in all the cities of India?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we are relaxing the system. There was a time when there were sixteen or eighteen cities where the system was obtaining. But as and when we were able to cope with demand, as it grew from day to day, we relaxed it. As a matter of fact, the question is how soon it is going to be relaxed from the cities where it still obtains.

RAILWAY QUARTERS FOR TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AT REWARI

*150. **SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no Railway quarters for Travelling Ticket Examiners at Rewari on the Northern Railway;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether they reside in private houses; and

(c) how many such Examiners are there at Rewari Junction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The T. T. Es. reside in private houses.

(c) There are 21 T. T. Es. at Rewari.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know whether the residence of T. T. Es. in private houses does not encourage ticketless travelling?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I think this is rather a far-fetched inference. The T. T. Es. are classified as non-essential staff on the railways. It is our endeavour to provide accommodation to the essential staff who are required to reside near the railway stations and as soon as we are able to provide accommodation to all the essential staff, then the non-essential staff will be taken up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know whether these T. T. Es. pay rent in the private houses or they stay as free guests?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Of course, they pay rents.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if these T. T. Es. are considered non-essential, what other essential personnel are being provided instead to stop ticketless travelling?

(No answer.)

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know what is the basis for the information supplied by the hon. Deputy Minister that the T. T. Es. pay rent?

(No answer.)

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE GODAVARI AT BADRACHALAM

*151. **SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request was made to the Government of India by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for a loan or grant for the construction of a bridge over the Godavari at Badrachalam; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir. A request was received in January 1958.

(b) The bridge is estimated to cost Rs. 65.5 lakhs. The State Government