

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: If I understood the hon. Minister correctly, he said it was not possible to collect correct statistics about the rates of mortality in coal-mines. But surely in the times in which we are, statistical information can be collected and it has been collected in other countries, I mean in other coal mining countries. There is no reason why India should lag behind in the matter of organising the collection of statistical information.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: So far as the Labour Ministry is concerned, we do not collect the statistics with regard to mortality. But here the question refers to coal-mines and in the coal-mines we do not have merely miners. We have other population also. Therefore, it is very difficult to separate them. Probably the Census Department or some other Department is in charge of collecting the statistics relating to mortality. The information about the fatalities deaths due to accidents, we always get and that is published. That is the information that I gave.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Has the Government considered the advisability of reducing the number of working hours and also the stipulated number of days during a year on which they should be presented in view of the hazardous nature of the work underground which these persons are called upon to do?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: I know the work in these mines is really hazardous. But I do not think that at the moment it is possible to reduce the number of working hours because the economic position of the country will not allow it. After some time probably we may be able to do it.

दिल्ली में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की मांग

* 545. श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली क्षेत्र

में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की बहुत अधिक मांग है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को कितने प्रार्थनापत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं?

t [DEMAND FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

*545. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy demand for telephone connections in the Delhi area; and

(b) if so, what is the number of the applications received by Government in this connection?]

संचार विभाग में उपमंत्री (श्री बी० भगवती): (क) जी हां।

(ख) 1 नवम्बर, 1965 को शेष आवेदन-पत्रों की कुल संख्या यह है:

(1) अपना टेलीफोन योजना के अंतर्गत	2,992
(2) अपनेतर टेलीफोन योजना के अंतर्गत	42,636
कुल	45,628

t [THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) ■ Yes.

(b) The total number of applications pending as on the 1st of November, 1965 are:—

- (i) Under 'Own Your own Telephone' Scheme . . . 2
- (ii) Under non-O, Y, Tj Scheme . . . 42636

TOTAL . . . 45628

t[] English translation.

SHRI JAGANATH PRASAD: May I know the number of telephone connections given every year by the Department and also what time it will take to dispose of all the applications for connections?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Sir, we have been providing telephone connections to the extent possible. In the beginning of the Third Plan, there were only 30,900 lines in Delhi. But in these years, we have already provided 61,000 lines and we have proposed to have another 18,700 lines during the year 1966. Even then the backlog is likely to continue because the demand has increased very much and it is not possible to cope with all the demand.

SHRI BIREN ROY: There may be a trouble due to cost for giving new connections. But why should there be so many cross-connections? Every-time one picks up a telephone in Delhi, one hears somebody else speaking. Why can't that be stopped?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: That is not the speciality of Delhi only.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: That is because in some exchanges there is no capacity for all the telephone connections. For instance in Karolbagh and in the Jorbag areas, the capacity is quite full. We are proposing to expand these Exchanges and in Jorbag we are going to have 300 lines as early as possible. I think it will be complete by January, 1966.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Is it the contention of the Government that expansion and inefficiency go hand in hand and that as lines go on increasing these cross-talks and this inefficient handling in the exchanges will go on increasing?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: There is some difficulty and it is mainly due to congestion. Now we want to expand the exchanges and when we expand these exchanges this difficulty will not be there.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if the hon. Minister before looking into the applications and new cases that come under his control, would look into the old cases where telephones are being tapped, particularly when Members of the Opposition are speaking and ensure that this tapping is not done through his Ministry?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I think that is too much to say. We are not tapping at all. Sometimes it is necessary for security reasons and it is done by the appropriate authority.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why of Members of Parliament?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Their talks are interesting, probably.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Will it be possible for the hon Minister to put an end to the obnoxious telephone calls that come up?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Sometimes these things do occur. When there is a complaint, we enquire into it and take steps. Otherwise it is not possible to stop that.

SHRI RAMGOPAL GUPTA: The hon. Minister just now said that there are about 45,000 applications pending and he is going to give about 15,000 connections. So the pending applications will be cleared only in three years and in the meantime there will be more applications. So what is being done to reduce the time lag between the applications and the giving of these new connections?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: It is true that the backlog is likely to continue. I cannot hold out any assurance in that respect because in the Fourth Plan we wanted to have 13 lakh telephone connections. That was our proposal. But the fund allotted will make it possible to extend the lines only to the tune of 6.5 lakhs. That shows that it is not possible to wipe out the waiting list. But we are doing our best within the resources made available to us.