

position. I appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member about the manufacturing programme. As I have already explained, in a vast country like ours, unless we are in a position to have a manufacturing programme on a very big scale in our own country, I do not think it would be possible to meet such a big demand. We are trying our level best but in the meantime we are trying to see that the manufacturers take up the manufacturing programme on a big scale and as early as possible; and at the same time, to the extent possible, we are trying to import the maximum quantity.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Sir, it was admitted in this House in the last session on the question of imported tractors that especially the tractors imported from Russia go out of order often and there are no spare parts easily available to put them in order.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who told you so?

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Now, when they are ordering 10,000 tractors from Russia, will the Government place an order for spare parts also along with the indent for those 10,000 tractors?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, the point raised by the hon. Member has already been taken notice of by us. In the past we were indiscriminately allowing import of various makes of tractors. But after looking into the fact that the availability of spare parts becomes one of the important problems, we are trying to restrict the imports to certain makes of tractors. As far as the import of spare parts is concerned, we are trying to see that liberal imports are granted to actual users and established importers so that availability of spare parts is assured.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know from the hon. Minister . . .

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA : Sir, already we have taken 20 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it is an important question and the Minister is so good as to answer in such detail; I congratulate him. **Mr. C. D. Pande.**

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know what is the number of tractors which are out in working order and are lying ideal because of lack of spare parts? I think import of spare parts is as impor-

tant as import of new tractors. If the Government imports the requisite quantity of spare parts, the tractors that are now lying idle for want of spare parts can be put to use. In my own constituency in Nainital, there are at least 12,000 tractors which are lying idle.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, I have already said that liberal imports are being allowed for spare parts and even we try to help the actual users; some foreign exchange has been specifically ear-marked for this and if the State Government brings to our notice that the foreign exchange is not sufficient, we are prepared to support the demand of the State Government and see that the necessary spare parts are made available to them.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, according to the Statement, the annual requirement of tractors is 63 thousand but the Ministry has not mentioned what is the total production now of tractors in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES IN MAIN CITIES

***752. SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any crash programme for the installation of additional telephones in the main cities of the country; and

(b) if so, how many telephones are likely to be added under the programme during the next three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) A crash programme had been prepared for providing additional telephones at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras, over and above those envisaged in the normal Plan. The programme had been submitted to the Ministry of Finance for provision of funds and foreign exchange outside the Plan programme. The Ministry of Finance have advised that it may not be possible to provide additional funds.

(b) The programme had envisaged wiping out the waiting lists in these four towns, as they existed on 31-3-68, by 31-3-71. The exchange capacity proposed to be added in each of these

towns under the Crash Programme is as follows :

| Name of City | Exchange capacity proposed to be added under the Crash Programme |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Bombay | 39,200 |
| 2. Calcutta | 74,500 |
| 3. Delhi | 43,200 |
| 4. Madras | 5,000 |
| TOTAL | 1,61,900 |

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, it seems the crash programme has crashed on the bedrock of funds. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the present backlog of the connections to be given and how many connections would be given after 3 years? If the programme has really crashed, how will you provide for the next Plan, because the rate of growth of telecommunications must be in consonance with the rate of growth of our economy and our plans?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: The Plans are also crashing.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, the waiting list as on 31-3-68 in these four cities is of the order of 6,55,201. We had envisaged that we should be able to provide 1,61,000 odd telephones under the crash programme. But if it does not come off, then there will be a big backlog, because according to the normal plans, by 31-3-1971 we will be providing 1,49,250 telephones in these four cities, leaving an uncovered gap of 2,93,508 out of the waiting list as on 31-3-1968.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know if it is a fact that telecommunications is one of the most remunerative industries and you get back whatever you invest in a much earlier time? In view of this and the growing demand—farmers also want telephones near about their places—may I know from the Government whether they are trying to approach the Ministry of Finance in order to make them understand the economics of the whole thing, so that they can agree?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am in agreement with the hon. Member that telecommunications is the best investment, because over 5 years' time approximately 50 per cent. of the capital invested comes back. But you know, Sir, in the Plan the order of priorities is given and I do not know what priority the Planning Commission gives us but it seems that it may not be able to give us the Plan allocation of the order we would like to have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dharia.

(Some hon. Members stood up)

I have already called Mr. Dharia. I must give him a chance first. And the other thing is that constant questioners are growing in large numbers. Hereafter for each question I shall limit the number of people. I shall note down the names.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: Sir, I hope my name has been noted down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your name?

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: A. P. Sharma is my name, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A. P. Sharma is a familiar name, an old friend, a labour leader. Yes, Mr. Dharia.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Mr. Chairman, while making a reference to main cities, the hon. Minister has unfortunately referred to only four cities in the country. I do not know why the State capitals and the cities having a population of more than 5 lakhs were excluded from the list. May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that in cities like Poona, where the mechanical equipment is already installed for giving 2,000 additional telephones and where other cables are also lying, because of the shortage of intermittent cables 2,000 telephone connections could not be given and during the last two years, Sir, not even a hundred telephone connections have been given to the citizens? Under these circumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister whether they have made a survey of the requirements and what efforts are being made to see that these needs are satisfied?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Well, Sir, we are in a strange quandary. The complaint which the hon. Member has made about Poona is justified and it is justified in almost all the cities of

the country. The difficulty is that our rate of growth in telephones has been of the order of about 12.5 per cent. compound but the main demand has been of the order of 23 per cent. compound. So the gap is increasing and unless more money is invested both in the factories as well as in telecommunications, the difficulties which have been referred to will continue. I have a great deal of sympathy with Poona's problems and I am looking into them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. A. P. Sharma. He has grown bulky; I could not recognise him; it is a long time we have met.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Sir, we always recognise you whether we meet or not. Now, Sir, my problem is very small regarding telephone connections but it is very difficult. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what the programme is about Patna, the capital of Bihar, because there we are experiencing a number of difficulties, particularly with regard to inter-connections and cross-connections. We hear that some improvement is likely to be made very soon. I would like to know how long it will take to improve the position in Patna.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, so far as Patna is concerned, the hon. Member would recall that I was there recently and we went into great detail with regard to the problems of Patna. We are trying to build up Patna quickly, quicker than he thinks. By the middle of next year, when the Rajendra Nagar Exchange comes up, the situation will very much improve. So far as the linking of the city is concerned, Patna is already linked up with Delhi by S.T.D. and by the middle of next year it will be part of the national Trunk Exchange which will open up Patna to 17 main cities of the country directly.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : May I know from the Minister whether any policy has been enunciated by the Government in regard to implementing and extension of these crash programmes to cities and whether it is proposed to extend these programmes to other cities, at least one or two cities in every State? May I know whether the Minister is aware that one of the main blocks against expansion is the non-availability of

automatic boards and what steps have been taken to get automatic boards and whether within say 2 or 3 years the demand for telephones in this country would be satisfied?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I have to sound a pessimistic note that the demand, in this country will not be satisfied even after the Fourth Plan or at the pace money is being allocated, even after the Fifth Plan, it will not be because the difficulty is that the more we are adding, the demand is increasing considerably more. So far as the crash programme is concerned, I cannot promise for more cities because I am not getting even for these four cities. So the question of giving to more cities does not arise.

श्री राजनारायण : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार बड़े शहरों में केवल दिल्ली, मद्रास, कलकत्ता और बम्बई को ही मानती है। जितने कारपोरेशन ह, महानगर पालिकाएँ, इन सब में ताबड़तोड़ प्रोग्राम क्यों नहीं हैं? बड़ा प्रश्न यह है कि हम दिल्ली से पटना तक डायरेक्ट ट्रंक काल कर सकते हैं, मगर इतनी बड़ी महानगरी इतना सबसे बड़ा पुराना नगर काशी और बनारस का जो है उसके साथ हम यहाँ से सीधा ट्रंक काल नहीं कर सकते हैं जब कि बनारस दिल्ली और पटना के बीच में पड़ता है। अगर हम बनारस से दिल्ली तक डायरेक्ट ट्रंक काल नहीं कर सकते हैं, तो इसकी वजह क्या है और इस तरह की तूफाने बदतमीजी क्यों है?

श्री आई० के० गुजराल : सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री राजनारायण जी से एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि जहाँ तक बड़े और छोटे नगरों को छांटने का ताल्लुक है, उसका फैसला हम नहीं करते हैं। उसका फैसला तो जिस तरह से आबादी बढ़ती है, जिस तरह से इन्डस्ट्रीज बढ़ती हैं, उनकी मांग बढ़ती है, उसके अनुसार फैसला होता है। हम इस बात का फैसला नहीं करते हैं कि हम किस शहर को पसंद करते हैं और किस शहर को नापसंद करते हैं। जहाँ तक काशी का ताल्लुक है, काशी के

लिए सब कुछ किया जा रहा है और हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि सेकेंड फेज में काशी का बड़े शहरों के साथ सीधा संबंध स्थापित हो जायेगा। आप सब लोग जानते हैं कि दिल्ली का कानपुर लखनऊ और आगरे के साथ सीधा संबंध स्थापित हो गया है और हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि सेकेंड फेज में यू० पी० के और शहरों के साथ भी सीधा संबंध स्थापित हो जाय।

श्री राजनारायण : मंत्री जी ने अभी बतलाया कि कानपुर और आगरा जिलों के साथ दिल्ली से सीधा ट्रंक काल किया जा सकता है, तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि बनारस के साथ क्यों नहीं किया जा सकता है। अगर कानपुर बिजनेस केन्द्र है, तो क्या बनारस नहीं है? बनारस देश का मुख्य तीर्थ स्थान है, दुनिया का टूरिस्ट केन्द्र है, वहां पर विदेशी लोग घूमने और अध्ययन करने के लिए आते हैं और वह शिक्षा जगत में अपना एक ऊंचा स्थान रखता है। जब पटना के साथ आपने सीधा ट्रंक काल करने की यहा से व्यवस्था कर दी है तो काशी तो बीच में ही आता है और उसके साथ इस तरह का भेदभाव क्यों बरता जा रहा है?

डा० रामसुभग सिंह : जैसे ही कानपुर में आटोमैटिक एक्मचेज की स्थापना हो जायेगी वैसे ही दिल्ली और बनारस के बीच में डायरेक्ट ट्रंक काल करने की भी व्यवस्था हो जायेगी।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : I would like to know from the Minister whether the demand is not increasing for telephone connections not only from the people of cities and towns but also from the rural areas? I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of bifurcating the Telephone and the Postal Department into a Telephone Department and a Postal Department so that more funds may be available for getting more equipment so that more telephone can be given? I would ask whether the Government is considering taking

loans from the World Bank or other World authorities to see that the telephone system is improved in India?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The point is simple. It is not a question of what we want to do or not to do and where we want to do or not to do. If we get more resources, we will expand fast. That is the real basic difficulty. So far as improving the telephone service is concerned, we are endeavouring to improve it.

SHRI P. S. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Since 1962 applications for telephone connections in Ernakulam have been pending and despite periodical assurances from the Government that all the backlog in applications will be met, nothing tangible has been done in Ernakulam. Is it a fact or not?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : It would not be possible for me to go into the specific question about Ernakulam but I will definitely write to the Member and let him know the position.

श्री ब्रजकिशोर प्रसाद सिंह : श्रीमन् मैं पूरक प्रश्न नहीं पूछता अगर माननीय बनारस के सदस्य ने पाटलीपुत्र का मवाल न उठाया होता। क्या यह सही नहीं है कि बनारस एक धार्मिक स्थान है, शिवाजी के त्रिशूल पर है, जहां भौतिक साधनों की आवश्यकता नहीं है और जहां सन्यास की बात होनी चाहिये? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि पाटलीपुत्र चन्द्रगुप्त मौर्य, समुद्रगुप्त और कौटिल्य जैसे महान सम्राटों का केन्द्र रहा तथा भारतीय साम्राज्य का केन्द्र रहा है और जहां भौतिक साधनों की बराबर आवश्यकता रहती है। इसलिए अगर पाटलीपुत्र के साथ सीधा संबंध जोड़ दिया गया तो क्या गलत किया गया?

DR. B. N. ANTANI : Why is there no direct dialing between Ahmedbad and Delhi? When that facility is given between Bombay and Delhi, what is the reason for this delay?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : We are laying down the micro-wave as well the co-axial lines. By the middle of next year it will be possible.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE : The Minister said that even after the

completion of the Fourth or Fifth Plan it will not be possible to fulfil the demands for more telephones. I can understand the difficulties of the Government in supplying additional telephones but what difficulty can there be for improving the functioning of the telephone system in this country? There are a lot of complaints about the functioning of Telephone Department. There are wrong calls recorded so that those having telephones have to pay more. Yesterday morning I had booked a call to Chanda at 5.30 A.M. and even at 11 A.M. I could not get the call through. I had told the monitor that an M.P. was speaking. Even then after waiting for six hours I could not get my call through. This is the position of the working of telephones in this country. If the Government can find difficulty in giving additional telephones to the people, what difficulty can there be for the Government for improving the working of the telephones?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : While I hold no brief for the type of service rendered because we are keen to improve it, the basic point remains at the same time that the shortage by itself results in inefficiency because there is more strain on the existing lines. About the Member booking a call, I cannot go into the details but I will check up why so much delay was caused but generally speaking the difficulty is that we have lesser links with cities than the requirements and therefore the very idea of expansion is that not only should we provide more telephones but we should also be able to improve the efficiency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a constant disease growing here for everyone to get up, for every one to ask me to allow him and if this is the practice that is going to grow, I am going to have only ten questions put on the order paper. Please remember this and I shall strictly restrict it but because only there are days I do not want to make enemies of friends.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : I got up and you promised.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I gave your Party Member the chance. There is no question of any promise. I am not going to allow because he says this or that. All right, you put the question.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : Now it has become a fashion to use bombastic words like 'crash programme', 'take-off stage', etc. Only the word is crashing. May I know whether any effort is made to have direct dialling system between Delhi and Madras or for that matter, between two stations in South India, for the reason that we give the direct dialling facility only in Upper India? May I know whether any serious attempt is made to provide this facility to South India?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The Member's impression is wrong that all direct dialling is being given to this part only and not to other parts. At the moment even there is direct dialling between Bangalore and Madras and also it is going to be between Madras and Coimbatore. By the middle of next year the direct dialling system would come in the form of trunk exchange when Coimbatore will be connected up to Srinagar with 17 cities inter-connected including Delhi.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : What about the capital?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Madras is being joined with Delhi.

ARREARS OF EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND

*753. SHRI ARJUN ARORA† :
SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1047 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 1967 and state :

(a) whether any arrears of provident fund contributions have since been realised from the establishments which were in default;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for non-realisation of the arrears, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 30.26 lakhs had been recovered till the 29th February, 1968. Since then a further sum

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.