

**Poor functioning of Rohru Telephone Exchange in Shimla**

†\*242. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that all the telephone sub-exchanges under Rohru Telephone Exchange in Shimla are not functioning properly;

(b) whether it is a fact that the earthing has not been done properly in telephone sub-exchange at Bhatwari as a result of which cards either become defective again and again or these get burnt and it takes 2-3 months to get them repaired;

(c) if so, by when, Government would improve its condition so as to make it function properly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor together with the number of telephones which are lying out of order for the past six months?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Sir, in Rohru Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) of Shimla Secondary Switching Area (SSA), 13 exchanges are connected to Rohru System. Generally, the exchanges are functioning properly but there had been incidences of card damage/burning in these exchanges due to various reasons, including lightening.

(b) and (c) Sir, Bhatwari Exchange was commissioned in March, 1997 with the value of earth resistance as per norms. There have been cases of card damage in Bhatwari exchange due to various reasons including lightening, which is a common phenomenon in the exchanges in the hilly areas. Further, the card failure rate in Bhatwari exchange is comparable with other exchanges functioning in lightening prone areas of Shimla SSA.

The cards are repaired through annual repair contract with M/s ITI. Normally the cards are repaired and returned within a month's time. The exchanges are restored promptly with available spare cards in the SSA.

It is a continuous process to investigate the reasons of high rate of card failure in various exchanges and accordingly corrective actions are

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

taken. However, earth resistance of Bhatwari Exchange is within permissible limits now.

(d) During the last 6 months, the fault booking and clearance in Bhatwari Exchange was as follows:—

Total No. of faults booked	105
Average fault rate (per 100 subscribers per month)	9.2
Average fault clearance time	9 hrs.
% Fault clearance within 24 hrs.	70%
% Fault clearance within 7 days	98%
% Fault clearance within 15 days	100%

### Broadband policy

\*243. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to announce a fresh policy to push broadband and internet penetration with focus to provide faster connectivity at lower prices;

(b) if so, whether Government have also decided to have a revamp of the telecom policy; and

(c) if so, to what extent this new policy would attract new investment, create job opportunities and provide access to new and improved services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Keeping in view the technological developments and socio-economic benefits of broadband being derived in many countries, the Government is considering to bring out a policy to accelerate broadband and internet penetration.

(b) In the context of unprecedented growth in tele-density, technological changes and issues of digital divide, the Government feels that there is need for revamping the New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP 99). However, no time-frame has been fixed at this stage.