

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): No, Sir. The calls from Bombay to Poona are considered as trunk calls.

Indo Iran Talks on Rail Link

3486. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been talk between the Prime Minister of India and Shah of Iran regarding the rail link between India and Iran; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the decision taken thereat?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). India and Iran are already cooperating in the field of railways. The recent discussions between the Prime Minister of India and the Shahanshah of Iran at Tehran were wide ranging and covered expansion in the field of railway cooperation with a view to ultimately develop and overland route linking the Indian sub-continent with Iran. The various aspects of the issue are under consideration of the two governments.

Tripartite Conference for Determining Allocable Surplus

3487. **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would soon call for a tripartite conference between labour, employers and Government to discuss and recommend amendments in the existing formula for determining the allocable surplus; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to call a tripartite conference to discuss this issue.

Mini Steel Plants

3488. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production in all mini steel plants in Uttar Pradesh has come to a grinding halt due to the 100 per cent power cut imposed by the U. P. State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details of the production loss incurred by this power cut; and

(c) the immediate steps being taken to restore the power supply?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production loss in the last three months was reported to be about 60,000 tonnes.

(c) The matter had been taken up with the U.P. State Electricity Board and power is now being supplied to the mini steel plants from 9.00 P.M. to 6.00 A.M. with effect from the night of the 10th July, 1977.

Extension after retirement given in Ministry of External Affairs

3490. **SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Foreign Service Ambassadors of India have been given extension after their retirement by the Government of India during the last 3 years; and

(b) how many Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Directors in the Ministry of External Affairs have been granted extension after retirement during the last 3 years?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Eight Foreign Service officers who were or are serving as Heads of Mission abroad were given such extensions.

(b) The position with regard to these categories is as follows:—

Secretaries :	2
Addl. Secretaries:	Nil
Joint Secretaries	Nil
Directors:	3

उत्तर प्रदेश में डायल घुमा कर सीधे टेलीफोन करने की व्यवस्था

3491. श्री महादीपक सिंह शाक्य : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश की राजधानी लखनऊ के साथ प्रत्येक कमिश्नरी (डिवीजन) और प्रत्येक कमिश्नरी के साथ प्रत्येक जिले को डायल घुमाकर सीधे टेलीफोन करने की व्यवस्था से जोड़ दिया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो अभी तक ऐसे कितने स्थानों को इस प्रकार जोड़ा जाना है और इस दिशा में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बृजलाल वर्मा) : (क) अभी तक नहीं ।

(ख) 11 कमिश्नरियों में से 7 को लखनऊ से सीधे डायलिंग के जरिए जोड़ना है और 40 जिला मुख्यालयों को अभी संबिधत कमिश्नरियों से जोड़ना है । जिला मुख्यालयों को राज्य की राजधानी से उत्तरोत्तर जोड़ा जा रहा है और यह कार्यक्रम 6ठीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की समाप्ति तक पूरा होगा ।

(Voluntary Sterilisation

3492. DR. BAPU KALDATY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of voluntarily effected sterilization cases during April and May 1977?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): The number of voluntary sterilizations performed during April and May 1977, according to the information so far available, is 90,328. Instructions have been issued on 28th March 1977 that family planning should be purely on a voluntary basis and that there is no place for compulsion or coercion.

Reduction in Aid to Bangladesh

3493. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reduced aid to Bangladesh this year;

(b) if so, the amount of aid given to Bangladesh upto now;

(c) the reasons for the reduction in aid; and

(d) whether the reduction in aid will harm the relation between the two countries?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (c). Since the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country in December, 1971, India has given government-to-government assistance in the shape of grants and credits totalling Rs. 233.02 crores upto 31st March 1976. Thereafter no fresh government assistance has been committed to Bangladesh; therefore there is no question of reduction in our aid to that country during this year. However, goods are continuing to be supplied to Bangladesh against grants/credits committed earlier.

(d) Does not arise.