

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). No. There are two Rest Rooms, area 625 sq. feet each, one for female staff and the other for male staff. Retiring Room has been provided to the male staff only for those who are put on night duty. There has been some increase in the telephone staff in the recent past resulting in some congestion in Rest Rooms. No additional accommodation is available at present or Rest Rooms but it might be possible to provide some more accommodation when some officers are shifted to some other building, in future.

**Passing of free calls in Patna Trunk Exchange**

3465. SHRI BHOLA MANJHI:

SHRI RAMAVATAR  
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.Os. punished for passing free calls in Patna Trunk Exchange during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons why they are kept in Patna Trunk Exchange against the interest of trunk services at the cost of revenue and public interest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Fifteen telephone operators have been punished and they are being kept under strict watch.

(b) In the interests of efficient trunk service to the public and to avoid loss of trunk revenue the

working of the Telephone operators is observed secretly round the clock. If any operator is found passing free trunk calls, disciplinary action is. trunk calls, disciplinary action is practice.

**Telephone and Communication Complex**

3466. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister laid down the foundation for telephone and communication complex in her constituency recently;

(b) whether this unit is in collaboration with American Company;

(c) whether it is not a fact that the said firm had its hand in bringing Military Junta rule in Chile; and

(d) if so, what prompted Government to make use of the said firm?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The Prime Minister laid on 22nd October, 1973, at Rae Bareilly, the foundation stone of a telephone switching factory with an ultimate capacity to manufacture 3 lakh lines of telephone switching equipment per year.

In the first phase this factory will manufacture 1 lakh lines of strowger type of switching equipment. No decision has been taken regarding the type of equipment for the second phase.

(b) In respect of manufacture of stronger type equipment, no foreign collaboration is involved.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**'Warning against industrial sabotage'**

3467. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY:  
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a paper read at the Police Science Congress held at Bangalore recently, a warning against industrial sabotage has been sounded; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken against it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary vigilance for prevention of industrial sabotage is being maintained by the authorities concerned.

**Alleged political dismissals from Govt. service**

3468. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:  
SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news reports regarding alleged "Political dismissals" from Government service; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Presumably the reference is to the news-item in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 31st October, 1973 captioned "Government silent on 'political dismissals'". The news-item seems to relate to an item in the agenda of the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Home Affairs held on 28th August, 1973 regarding the number of Central Government employees who had been suspended or dismissed from service on the basis of adverse police reports and the nature of the adverse reports.

The factual position is that in order to ensure that persons in Government service are loyal, upright and impartial, it is necessary for the Government to ensure that candidates for appointment are in all respects suitable for such appointment to Government service. No person is considered unfit for appointment solely because of his political opinions. Occasionally, however, because of urgency for making appointments, temporary postings are made subject to verification of character and antecedents. If such candidates are not found suitable for retention in Government service after verification of their character and antecedents, their services can be terminated under the provisions of the Temporary Service Rules. Since powers are vested in the various appointing authorities under Government, the number of such cases is not collected and maintained by the Government. The allegation made in the news-item mentioned above to the effect that it was "assumed that many Government employees are dismissed because of their political affiliations and some of them have been active workers of various parties" is, however, not correct. The position is that no person is considered unfit for employment under