

(b) The total number of applicants in the country for new telephone connections on the waiting list as on 30th September, 1973 was about 4.80 lakhs.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) It is proposed to provide 7.79 lakh telephone connections (Direct Exchange Lines) during the 5th Plan period.

Theft in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

5411. SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a theft of Rs. one lakh in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, on 13th October, 1973; and

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in this regard?

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

(b) Three persons have been arrested.

Complaint regarding withdrawal of money from the Accounts of Depositing in Dholera, Gujarat

5412. SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint was made to the Union Minister about the withdrawal of money from the Postal Savings Bank accounts of depositors without their knowledge in Dholera (Gujarat) on 8th August, 1973.

(b) if so, whether the Minister has enquired into the complaint; and

(c) the outcome of the enquiry and the action taken against the persons held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It was found that the Sub-post-master, Dholera Post Office (Gujarat) had *prima facie* committed frauds from certain Savings Bank accounts by making fraudulent withdrawals and non-crediting of deposits. The case came to light only in May, 1973. The accused official, having been arrested by the police, is under suspension. The police investigation is in progress.

Percentage of G.N.P. available for research and Development

5413. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the G.N.P. available during the current financial year for research and development.

(b) whether this allocation is adequate for the proper development of Science and Technology; and

(c) if not, the minimum requirements for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) Data on the GNP as well as the total R&D expenditure during the current financial year is not available at this stage. However, about 0.54% of the GNP was spent on Research & Development during the year 1971-72. It is estimated that in the current year, the figure might go up to about 0.6%.

(b) and (c) In the draft Science & Technology Plan prepared by the National Committee on Science & Technology, the level of outlays envisaged is such that about one per cent of the GNP might be spent on research and development during the last year of the Fifth Plan. The resultant rate of growth is considered adequate for the proper development of science and technology in India.