

**TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY
NINTH REPORT**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1984-85)**

(SEVENTH LOK SABHA)

**OPENING OF A NEW AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE AT
BAGH BAZAR, CALCUTTA**

AND

**PROJECTS FOR INSTALLATION OF THREE
TELEPHONE EXCHANGES AT
RAILWAYPURA, AHMEDABAD**

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(P&T BOARD)**

**[Action taken on 153rd Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)]**



*Presented in Lok Sabha on 27.8.1984
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 27.8.1984*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 1984/Bhadra, 1906 (Saka)

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~~CORRIGENDA TO TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH
REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (7 LS)~~

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**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1984-85)**

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2. **Shri H. S. Kohli**—*Chief Financial Committee Officer.*
3. **Shri K. K. Sharma**—*Senior Financial Committee Officer.*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf this Two Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their One Hundred and Fifty-Third Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) relating to (i) Opening of a new Automatic Exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta and (ii) Projects for Installation of three Telephone Exchanges at Railway-pura, Ahmedabad.

2. Commenting on the unsatisfactory performance of the telephone system in Calcutta, the Committee had, in their earlier Report, mentioned that a Task Force appointed by the Department had identified the factors affecting the telephone system in Calcutta and suggested certain remedial measures. The Department had set up another special Task Force under an Additional General Manager to implement the recommendations of the earlier Task Force. The Committee had expressed the hope that these measures would be implemented under a time-bound programme so as to ensure an efficient service to the much-harassed subscribers. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Communications have stated that the special Task Force at Calcutta has already achieved substantial progress in rehabilitation of the telephone system. However, from the figures of targets and achievements upto 31-3-1983 in various fields furnished by the Ministry, the Committee have found that the claim of the Ministry regarding 'substantial progress' is not substantiated. For example, under the head "Replacement of old cables", the achievement is only 11.94 per cent. Similarly, in the programme for "Cabinets and pillars", the achievement is only 11.68 per cent. The Committee have re-stressed that the programme for the rehabilitation of the telephone system in Calcutta should be expedited so as to ensure its speedy implementation.

3. The Committee considered this Report at their sitting held on 21-8-1984. Minutes of the sitting form Part II of the Report.

(vi)

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the recommendations/observations of the Committee have been printed in thick type in the body of the Report and have also been reproduced in a consolidated form in the Appendix to the Report.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the assistance rendered to them in the matter by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

NEW DELHI ;
August 23, 1984
Bhadra 1, 1906 (Saka)

SUNIL MAITRA,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by Government on the Committee's recommendations and observations contained in their 153rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Paragraphs 13 and 23 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1980-81, Union Government (P&T) relating to "Opening of a new automatic exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta" and "Projects for installation of three telephone exchanges at Railwaypura, Ahmedabad" respectively.

1.2 The 153rd Report of the Committee (7th Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 28-4-1983. The Report contained 27 recommendations/observations. These have been broadly categorised as follows :—

(i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by Government :

Sl. Nos. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26 and 27.

(ii) Recommendations/Observations, replies to which the Committee do not desire to pursue in the light of replies received from Government :

Sl. Nos. 4, 8 and 11.

(iii) Recommendations/Observations, replies to which have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration :

Sl. No. 1.

(iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government have furnished interim replies :

Sl. Nos. 6, 14, 21, 23 and 24.

1.3 The Committee regret that though a period of nearly sixteen months has elapsed since the Report was presented to the House, the Ministry have yet to furnish final action taken replies in respect of four recommendations. The Committee desire that final action taken replies in respect of these recommendations, duly vetted by audit should be submitted to the Committee within a period of three months.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by Government on some of their recommendations/observations.

*Inordinate delay in Commissioning
Bagh Bazar Telephone Exchange
(Sl. No. 1 para 1.30)*

1.5 Commenting on the delay in the completion of the project for the installation of Cross Bar type telephone exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta, the Committee in para 1.30 of the 153rd Report had observed as follows :—

“The execution of the project for installation of a 3,000 lines Cross Bar type telephone exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta, provides yet another example of indefensible lack of planning and coordination resulting in enormous delay in its completion. The project was sanctioned in November, 1966 but could be commissioned only after about nine and a half years i.e. in March, 1976.

1.6 In their action taken reply, the P & T Board have stated as follows :—

“The PAC had also earlier commented adversely on the delays in execution of Telecommunication Projects. On their advice, a special officer was appointed to investigate the causes of delays and to recommend suitable action. The recommendations of the OSD are being implemented progressively, so far as these apply to this case.”

1.7 In their earlier Report, the Committee had commented adversely on the inordinate delay in the commissioning of Bagh Bazar Telephone Exchange. The Project which was sanctioned in November, 1966 could

only be commissioned in March 1976, i.e., only after about 9½ years. The Committee had expressed the view that this was yet another example of indefensible lack of planning and co-ordination resulting in enormous delay in its completion. In their action taken reply the Ministry of Communications have stated that the Public Accounts Committee had also earlier commented adversely on the delays in execution of telecommunications projects and on their advice a special officer was appointed to investigate the causes of delays and to recommend suitable action. It has further been stated that the recommendations of the Officer on Special Duty are being implemented progressively so far as these apply to this case. The Committee are not satisfied with this vague reply of the Ministry. The least that the Ministry should have done was to intimate the findings of the Officer on Special Duty regarding the causes of delays, the recommendations made and the action taken by the Ministry on each of the recommendations. The Committee desire that this should now be done without delay.

Appointment of Task Force suggest remedial measures
(Sl. No. 17—Para 1.46)

1.8 Commenting on the unsatisfactory performance Telephone system in Calcutta, the Committee had in para 1.46 of their 153rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) observed as follows :

“The Committee understand that a Task Force appointed by the Department has since identified the factors affecting the telephone system in Calcutta and has suggested certain remedial measures viz., continuous power supply, replacement of old exchange lines, providing ducts to cables to protect them, gas pressurisation of cables, etc. The Department is now stated to have set up another special Task Force under an Additional General Manager to implement the recommendations of the earlier Task Force. The Committee trust that these measures would be implemented under a time bound programme so as to ensure that the Calcutta Telephone system is able to provide efficient service to the hitherto much harassed subscribers. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken and results achieved within six months time.

1.9 In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Communication (P&T Board) have stated :

"The special task force at Calcutta has already achieved substantial progress in rehabilitation of the telephone system, as given below :

Item	Target	Achieved upto 31-3-83	
		Actual	Percent
Ducting	59.655 Kms.	37.010 Kms.	62.04
Pressuri- zation	895 Kms.	470.627 Kms.	52.58
Cabinets & pillars	779 numbers	91 numbers	11.68
Replacement of old cables	31.590 Kms.	3.772 Kms.	11.94

1.10 Commenting on the unsatisfactory performance of the telephone system in Calcutta, the Committee had in their earlier report pointed out that a Task Force appointed by the Department has since identified the factors affecting the telephone system in Calcutta and suggested certain remedial measures. The Department had set up another special Task Force under an Additional General Manager to implement the recommendations of the earlier Task Force. The Committee had expressed the hope that these measures would be implemented under a time bound programme so as to ensure an efficient service to the much-harassed subscribers. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Communications (P & T Board) have stated that the Special Task Force at Calcutta has already achieved substantial progress in rehabilitation of the telephone system. The Ministry have also furnished figures of targets and achievements upto 31-3-1983 in various fields. From a perusal of the figures, the Committee find that the claim of the Ministry regarding substantial progress is not substantiated. For example, under the head "Replacement of old cables", against the target of 31.59. kms. the achievement is only 3.772 kms. i.e. 11.94%. Similarly in the programme for "Cabinets and pillars", against a target of 779 numbers, the achievement is only 91 numbers i. e., 11.68%. The Committee desire that the programme for the rehabilitation of the telephone system in Calcutta should be expedited so as to ensure its speedy implementation.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendations

In the first instance, the work of constructing Additional floor on the existing telephone exchange building for installing the new telephone exchange though sanctioned in July, 1965, was awarded in July 1967 i.e. one year after the detailed estimate was sanctioned. One whole working season-November-March was thus lost on this account. The building work was also delayed by about 15 months. The arguments put forth by the Department that the unprecedented rains and the law and order situation, prevailing in Calcutta during the period in question, hampered the progress of building considerably were discounted by the Secretary, Ministry of Communications himself in his evidence before the Committee. He stated : "the comment of unusually heavy rainfall was unwarranted. It was not based on data. About this (the law and order problem) also, what they (P&T Department) sought to mean was that it was due to lack of discipline inside the department," the committee would like to express their serious displeasure over the casual manner in which the Committee's queries in the case have been replied to by the Department. The Committee expect that more care would be observed in future.

[Serial No. 2 Para 1.31 of Appendix II to the 153rd Report of PAC
(7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The observations of the Committee have been noted. General instructions have been issued to all heads of field units to be precise, accurate and upto-date in all information supplied in connection with audit cases vide D. O. No. 801-1/82-TPS (SPM) dated 22.1.83 (copy enclosed).

[M/o Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30.9.1983].

T. S. SUBRAMANIAN
Member (TD)

D.O. No. 801-1/82-(TPS)/SPM

Office of the Director Genl.
Posts & Telegraphs,
Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110 001
Dated, the 22nd Jan., 1983.

Sub : Timely submission of replies to the Draft Audit Paras.

My dear,

In the recent hearing on the report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, (CAG), the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has made adverse comments about the inordinate delays in furnishing replies to draft paras proposed by Director of Audit (P&T) to DGP&T. Secretary (C) has taken a serious view of these delays and has desired that prompt action should be taken at all levels in ensuring timely replies to audit paras. Procedures and instructions for disposal of Audit paras is already contained in DGP&T letter No. 30-12/75-B dated 21.10.75 and the subsequent circular issued by the Budget Branch of the Directorate.

2. Draft audit paras proposed by Director of Audit, P&T, Delhi are required to be replied within six weeks from the date of their receipt. Normally, the basic audit paras are proposed by the branch Audit office to the concerned Head of the Circle (including Districts). The same is revised or dropped by the Director of Audit, P&T, taking into consideration the replies given by the heads of circles. Therefore, the paras referred to the DGP&T already have had one round of queries and replies. The draft audit paras arise out of defects, irregularities etc. noticed by the Audit, which are referred to P&T for clarification and for timely action for rectifying the defect or to remedy the situation. The draft audit paras received by DGP&T are generally referred to the heads of circles for confirming the facts and figures and to furnish such additional information as may be necessary to reply the revised audit para.

3. Following deficiencies are generally noted in replying audit paras earlier dealt in the circle offices :

(i) Precise information regarding facts and figures is not given.

- (ii) Circumstances under which defects, deviations or deficiencies have occurred are not indicated.
- (iii) Para-wise comments on the issues raised by audit are not furnished.
- (iv) Timely replies are not furnished to enable the DGP&T to adhere to the prescribed time limit.

4. In order to streamline the procedure following action may please be taken :

- (a) A senior officer of the rank not less than that of a Director in the Circle headquarters, may be nominated to coordinate the collection of necessary information and to furnish timely replies to Directorate.
- (b) Relevant portions of the audit para may be immediately endorsed to the concerned field units in case the information is not readily available in the circle office.
- (c) Any new facts coming to the notice of circle office should be immediately reported to DGP&T in the reply
- (d) Action should be initiated immediately for disciplinary or other remedial measure as may be necessary, to rectify the defects or irregularities pointed out by the Audit.

5. The General Managers (Telephones/Telecom.) are requested to personally monitor and ensure that reply to DGP&T's reference is furnished within two weeks of its receipt. Since the Circle has already dealt with the draft audit para when proposed by Branch Audit office, there should be no difficulty in furnishing the reply within the prescribed time. It should be remembered that in the Directorate the case has to be dealt with by several sections and the final replies are to be vetted by Finance Section. This takes considerable time. Hence, the need for prompt reply by the Heads of Circles.

6. A few of the final audit paras are chosen by the PAC for hearing. Secretary (C) has to personally appear before the PAC for recording evidence on these cases. Members of the P&T Board and concerned DDGs and Heads of circles are also required to attend the IAC meeting

for assisting the Secretary. The need for precise, accurate and upto date information on audit cases from circles/Districts cannot, therefore be everstressed.

7. The Department has also to take action for modification of rules, initiation of disciplinary action on such other measures on points arising out of Final audit paras, included the CAG's report to parliament. Action Taken Notes (ATN) are required to be furnished to the Public Accounts Committee to indicate the progress on the action taken. Any delay in submission of information on List of Points (LOP) or ATN is viewed seriously by the PAC. An officer of the rank of a Joint Secretary may also have to appear before the PAC to explain the progress of cases in person. It is therefore, enjoined on all heads of circles that prompt attention is given to the disposal of audit paras and related correspondence.

8. Secretary (C) has desired that a specific remark may be included by the Heads of the Circles in their monthly reports to him that no audit para is pending beyond prescribed limit with the circle for reply.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(T.S. SUBRAMANIAN)

Member (TD)

Shri.....

G.M. Telecom/G.M. Telephones/D.M. Telephones

Recommendation

The Committee observe that the delay in awarding the work of construction of the building and in getting the work executed as per schedule was due to factors within the control of the Department. The Delay, therefore, is highly regrettable. The Committee consider that with better planning, the delay in this case could be obviated or at least minimised considerably.

[Serial No. 3 Para 1.32, Appendix II to the 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The construction of the building involves coordination among various wings of the department, viz. electrical, airconditioning and structural departments of the Civil Wing and equipment planning section of telephone department. To ensure proper coordination, co-ordination committees have been set up in each district and circle under the chairmanship of concerned GM for ensuring proper coordination control and monitoring of the project *vide* No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl) dated 24.2.78 (copy enclosed).

[M/o Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/33-TPS (Genl)
UPC dt. 30.9.1983].

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT OFFICE
OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL POSTS & TELEGRAPHS
NEW DELHI-110001.

No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl)

Dated : 24th Feb., 1978

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Coordination, Monitoring & Progress of Telecommunication Projects.

1. In supersession of all earlier instructions in this regard, the following authorities shall in future be responsible for basic planning and overall co-ordination, control and monitoring of various types of telecommunication projects in their respective territories --

Sl. No.	Type of Project	Officer-in-Overall Charge
1.	All projects relating to Local Telephone Exchanges, Trunk Exchanges both Manual and Automatic, Telex Exchanges and connected works	The General Manager & District Managers in Telephone Districts/General Managers Telecom. Circles.
2.	All long distance transmission projects, other than open-wire lines i.e. Microwave, Coaxial, UHF, VHF etc.	General Manager Projects, Regions.

3. All projects pertaining to long distance P.C.Os, open wire lines including carrier on open wire, telegraph Offices, VFT etc.	General Managers Telecom. Circles.
4. All Building Projects other than those projects covered under long distance transmission schemes mentioned at (2) above i.e. buildings for local exchange projects, trunk exchange projects, telegraph offices, administrative offices, staff Qrs. etc.	General Manager & District Managers in Telephone Districts/General Manager, Telecom. Circles.
2. For purposes of co-ordination, control and monitoring co-ordination committees shall be constituted in each of the Telecom. Circles, Telephone Districts and Project Regions under the personal Chairmanship of officers in overall charge mentioned in panel overleaf. The constitution of these Committees shall be as follows :—	

(a) *Telecom. Circles*

(i) General Manager	Chairman
(ii) A.G.M. Capital Works/Co-ord.	Convenor/Secretary
(iii) Director of Telegraphs/DGMs	Member
(iv) G.M.M. for STD/TAX/Long Distance Projects	Member
(v) General Manager Projects	Member
(vi) I.F.A.	Member
(vii) S.E. Civil	Member
(viii) Executive Engineer Electrical/Air conditioning	Member
(ix) D.F./A.E. Circle Store Depot	Member

(x) Other officers as required be nominated or co-opted by G.M.	Member
(b) Major Telephone Districts	
(i) General Manager	Chairman
(ii) Addl./Dy. G. M. Planning/Co-ordination	Convenor/Secretary
(iii) G.M. Projects	Member
(iv) G M.M. for STD/TAX/LD Projects etc.	Member
(v) Dy. G.Ms. Planning (Switching) External Plant/Installation/ Construction	Member
(vi) I.F.A.	Member
(vii) SE(Civil)	Member
(viii) S.B. or E.E. (Electrical/Air-conditioning.	Member
(ix) DE/AE District Store Depot	Member
(x) D.E. Acceptance Testing (T&D Circle)	Member
(xi) Other officers as required may be nominated or co-opted by G.M.	
(c) Minor Telephone Districts	
(i) District Manager	Chairman
(ii) DE(Planning/Co-ordination)	Convenor/Secretary
(iii) Representative of G.M. Projects (For STD/TAX Projects)	Member
(iv) Representative of G.M.M. (for STD/TAX projects)	Member
(v) D.E. Planning (Switching External plant, Installation, Construction)	Member

(vi) I.F.A.	Member
(vii) S.E./EE Civil	Member
(viii) S.E./EE Electrical/Air conditioning	Member
(ix) A.E. Circle Store Depot	Member
(x) Other officers as required may be nominated or co-opted by G.M.	

(d) Telecom. Project Regions

(i) G.M. Projects.....	Chairman
(ii) Director (Transmission) Headquarters.....	Convenor/Secretary
(iii) GMM or his representative.....	Member
(iv) S.E. Civil.....	Member
(v) S.E. Electrical/Airconditioning.....	Member
(vi) I.F.A.	Member
(vii) Other officers as required may be nominated or co-opted by G.M.	

Projects.

3. The above Committees should meet atleast once in two months. The meetings may be held at the Headquarters of the officers in overall charge or at sites of larger projects at the discretion of the officers in overall charge.

4. The officer in overall charge should arrange for a PERT Chart to be prepared as soon as project is conceived. The intention is to clearly identify all the distinct activities and various officers and agencies responsible for their execution from the outset, so that no aspect of the project is lost sight of. An attempt should also be made to the extent possible to work out the likely duration as well as the targets for

commencement and completion of each activity and the critical path for the project as a whole. It is, of course, recognised that at this early stage of project formulation, these durations and targets for the activities would necessarily be tentative and would be confirmed and revised later on when the project takes a more concrete shape.

5. The PERT Chart so prepared should be reviewed in the next Meeting of the Co-ordination Committee and the responsibility and duration of activities agreed to. Thereafter the officer in overall charge will obtain progress reports every two months from all the concerned officers, get the same consolidated and keep ready for discussion in subsequent Co-ordination Meetings. At these meetings, the Co-ordination Committee should take stock of the progress on each activity, identify any problem and find solution to meet the same. If for any particular problem, a solution at the Circle/District level is not feasible, the matter should be immediately referred by the G.M. concerned to the Central Co-ordination Committee (as indicated in para 6 below) particularly when the specifications of the project have to be changed or there are certain insuperable difficulties which will lead to delays in the completion of any project.

6. To monitor the progress of important projects and to remove any bottlenecks beyond the control of the Circle/District/Project Region Co-ordination Committees, a Central Telecommunication Project Co-ordination & Monitoring Committee shall function at the P&T Directorate as follows :-

(1.) DGP&T	Chairman
(2.) Member (Telecom. Dev.) P&T Board	Member
(3.) Member (Telecom. Operations) "	Member
(4.) Member (Finance) "	Member
(5.) Deputy DG(MM)	Member
(6.) Deputy DG(F/D)	Member
(7.) Chief Engineer (Civil)	Member
(8.) Deputy DG(L)	Convenor (for Long Distance Projects)
(9.) Deputy DG(S) P&T Board	Convenor (for Local Exchange Projects)

7. To enable the Central Committee at the Headquarters to Monitor the co-ordinated implementation of Telecom. projects, the officers in overall charge of the projects shall submit a report every two months on the status of various projects in the proforma TD-001, TD-002, TD-003 and TD-004 (Annexure I to IV). These reports should be submitted to the P&T Directorate as soon as possible after the close of every two months' period and the meetings of the Circle/District/ Project-Region Co-ordination Committee.

8. It will be seen that the progress report is in four parts as follows :-

Part I(TD-001) giving a consolidated list of all projects sanctioned and their status. This report is to be prepared in separate sections for different types of projects like local Exchanges MAX-I Step-by-Step, Crossbar, MAX-II, MAX-III, CB multiple, CB Non-Multiple, etc. and the long distance projects like Coaxial, Microwave, UHF, VHF, TAXs, Manual Trunk Exchanges, Long Distance PCOs etc.

Part-II(in form TD-002) giving a detailed progress report for each project separately. It will list all activities involved, the officer responsible for each, the estimated duration and target and actual dates of commencement and completion with brief notes giving reasons for delay, if any. Separate detailed notes shall be given wherever some action is required beyond the control of the Officer in overall charge.

Part-III(in form TD-003) giving the progress in terms of financial expenditure in each project.

Note : The reports in part II and part III,(Forms TD-002 and TD-003) shall be forwarded to the Directorate only for projects costing Rs. 1 crores or more. The Directorate may, however, call for reports, on specific projects, based on the review of lists contained in part-I (From TD-001).

Part-IV (in form TD-004) giving a list of all the projects physically completed, but for which Completion Reports have not to be submitted. This report shall be submitted once in six months only i.e. at the end of three two months' block at each financial year.

9. All Heads of Circles/Telephone Districts and Projects-Regions are requested to note the above instructions and take immediate action to organize the Co-ordination Committee and prepare PERT Charts and progress reports. The first progress report for the period ending 31-3-1978 should be obtained, consolidated and forwarded by the Officers-in-overall-charge by the end of April, 1978 at the latest.

10. A typical PERT Chart for automatic exchanges had already been forwarded under this office letter No. 820-23/73-TPS(UPC) dated 5-8-1974. The detailed analysis of various activities for various projects may be undertaken on small similar lines and PERT/BAR Charts prepared accordingly by the Officers-in-overall-charge of projects.

11. Receipts of this Memo may please be acknowledged. Any suggestions to improve the working of the Committees may also be forwarded and exchanges among the various Circles/Telephone Districts/Project-Regions.

Sd/-
(K.D. VAIDYA)
Member (Telecom. Development)

Copy to :-

1. All Heads of Circles/Telephone District/Projects Regions.
2. General Manager (Maintenance)
3. All Members of the P&T Board.
4. Chief Engineer (Civil), P&T Directorate.
5. All Deputy D. Gs. Telecom., P&T Directorate.
6. Deputy DG(F/D)
7. All Directors in Telecom. Branches of Directorate.
8. Director (Fin. II) & Director (Fin. IV) P&T Dte.
9. Director (Budget)
10. Secretary, P&T Board.
11. All SEs (Civil) and SEs (Electrical)
12. All SAs
13. All E.Es (Civil/Electrical).

FORM TD-001

CIRCLE/DISTRICT/PROJECT REGION

List of Telecommunication Projects and their Status as on.....

(To be submitted within a month of end of each two-monthly block w.r.t. DGP&T Memo. No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl)
Dated 24-2-1978.)

Sl. No. of project	Sanction Particulars			Date of physical commencement of work (1st compo- nent)	Date of physical completion of work (last com- ponent)	Remarks			
	Sanctioned by	Sanction No. & Date	Sanctioned cost						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

FORM TD-002

CIRCLE/DISTRICT/PROJECTS REGION

Two Monthly Progress Report of Projects for the Quarter Ending

Name of Sanctioned Vide Sanction
Project.....by.....No.....dt.....

(To be submitted within a month of close of each Two-monthly block w.r.t. DGP&T Memo. No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl)
Dt. 24-2-1978)

ACTIVITY PARTICULARS	Estimated duration in months	Date of commencement of activity		Date of completion of activity		REMARKS	
		Originally Planned	Actual/Likely	Originally Planned	Actual/Likely	7	
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9

FORM TD-003

CIRCLE/DISTRICT/PROJECT REGION

Two Monthly Progress Report on Expenditure on Project for the Quarter Ending

Name of Project..... Sanctioned by..... Vide Sanction No..... Dated.....

Total Sanctioned Amount..... Target Date of completion.....

(Original) (Likely)

(To be submitted within a month of close of Two-monthly block w.r.t. DGP&T Memo No. 758-7/78-TPS (Gen)
Dated 24-2-1978)

18

Sl. No.	COMPONENT Name of Component	DETAILED ESTIMATE			Expenditure booked to end of Qr.	Likely final cost of component	Reasons for variation between Col. 5 & Col. 7, if any
		Sanctioned by	Sanction No. & Date	Amount sanc- tioned			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

FORM TD-004

CIRCLE/DISTRICT/PROJECT REGION

Half Yearly List of Projects completed for which Completion Reports are not submitted as on

To be submitted within a month of each close of each Half Year w.r.t. DGP&T Memo No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl.)
Dated 24-2-1978)

Sl. No.	Name of work	SANCTION PARTICULARS			Date of physical comple- tion of work	Expenditure booked upto end of pe- riod	TARGET DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CR		REMARKS
		Sanc- tioned by	Sanction No.	Sanctioned & cost date			Vide last Statement	Now Likely	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Recommendations

The Committee find that it took 41 months from October, 1972 to March 1976 for the equipment to be installed. Although the building was taken over by the Department in May 1970, the installation of the equipment commenced only in October, 1972. The delay is attributed to receipt of equipment in trickles from the ITI. Besides, the equipment installation work remained suspended for 8 months between April to November 1974 due to shortage of engineering staff.

[SI No. 5, para 1.34 Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The supply of equipment by ITI is now being made in a few packages to be made in a proper sequence so that installation can progress smoothly. Attempt is being made to enforce package discipline which occasionally gets disturbed due to production problems in ITI or transport difficulties.

[M/o Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS (Genl.) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

Recommendations

The Committee note that Departmental technical instructions require that sophisticated component of telephone equipment should be unpacked and taken out from plastic containers in air-conditioned rooms to avoid ingress of dust and humidity, which would adversely affect their performance. The Committee, however, learn that the components of the telephone exchange in the instant case were unpacked and instal without facility of air-conditioning, "to avoid idle investment."

[SI No. 7 para 1.36 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

It is a normal practice to open the unpacked equipment in air-conditioned space. In cases where installation of main AC plant is delayed, unit air-conditioners can be provided for the interim period. In-

structions in this regard were however issued only in 1974 *vide* 555-1/73-TPS (XC) dt. 26-3-1974 (copy enclosed).

[O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983.]

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

No. 555-1/73-TPS (XC)

Parliament Street,
Dak Tar Bhawan
New Delhi-110001

Dated the 26th March, 1974.

SUBJECT : Installation of Crossbar exchanges- airconditioning of equipment rooms.

In several instances of installation of crossbar exchanges it is found that commissioning of the airconditioning plant is not done by the time the frames are required to be mounted on the bays. Recently, the entire procedure of indenting on DGS&D, liaisoning with the suppliers of the plant was reviewed and suitable instructions have been issued *vide* this office letter No. 28-1/63-TPS (BT) dated 22-10-1973 so as to keep a strict watch over the implementation of several steps required for the timely commissioning of the air-conditioning plant. The results of implementation of such instructions will be known only after some time.

In some of the crossbar exchange installations, the installation of airconditioning plant has not proceeded to a satisfactory level. It is likely that the frame mounting will have to be started even though the switch room is not air-conditioned.

In order to ensure relatively dust-free atmosphere in the switch room it is decided that sufficient number of room airconditioners will be installed. These air conditioners may be fitted with additional filter units so as to control the dust ingress to satisfactory level. Action must be taken to maintain these filters in proper condition by frequent cleaning.

The circles, in which the crossbar installations are in progress, may take necessary early action for procuring the required number of

window type air conditioners and instal them in the switch room. They may coordinate with the concerned G.Ms Projects for the timely installation of these units. Installation of Exchange equipment should not be delayed or postponed due to non-availability of room air-conditioners. When the Central air conditioning plant is commissioned, the window units may be diverted to MAX II. Exchanges in the circle.

Sd/-
 (K.D. Vaidya)
 Deputy Director General (S)

Copy to :

- (1) Heads of Circle. (Except DPS, ND)
- (2) All G.M.Ts./G.M., T&D Circle.
- (3) All D.M.Ts.
- (4) All G.M. (Projects).
- (5) Director (SI)/(E)/(XP)/PH(X)/PH(S), P&T Dte.
- (6) ADG (XK)/EA/EE/BT/XP/WB/PHX-1/PHX-2/PHX-3/PHS
P&T Dte.

Recommendations

The Committee find that the target date for commissioning/testing the plant had to be extended twice as the AC plant room was not ready and the location of the cooling tower had not been settled by the department. The AC plant could be installed only in May, 1975 against the target date of 30th June, 1974. Even thereafter the plant could not be commissioned till 1977 for want of water and power supply. The Committee regret to observe that according to Departments own admission, the delay was mainly due to difficulty in coordinating various agencies involved in this work. Apparently, planning at the micro level was totally absent, with the result that the exchange equipment remained exposed to dust and humidity for nearly 4½ years from October 1972 to April 1977.

[S. No. 9, Para 1.38 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

To improve planning at micro level, the work of design, specification and tendering for A/C plants is now entrusted to P&T Civil Wing. Coordination committee under the GM Telephones is also operating *vide circular No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl.)* dated 24-2-78 and regular meetings are being held to sort out such problems.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

Yet another unfortunate aspect of the matter is that due to inordinate delay in installation and commissioning of the air-conditioning system, the summer and winter tests could not be conducted before commissioning the AC plant and these were subsequently waived in May 1978. The Committee consider that had the Department taken timely steps to finalise the parameters for the air-conditioning plant, much of the delay could have been avoided. The committee, therefore, recommend that responsibility should be fixed in the matter so that such lapses are obviated in future. The committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter.

[Sl. No. 10 Para 1.39 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Testing & commissioning of A/C plant involves coordination between P&T Civil Wing (Electrical), the A/C contractor the T&D Circle and the user (viz. Calcutta Telephone District in this case). It is difficult to ensure coordination of all of them separately for winter, monsoon and summer tests. Feasibility of evolving one common rigorous test for acceptance of plant is being examined. As for fixing of the responsibility, GMT Calcutta has been directed to investigate the case and fix up the responsibility.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

The Audit para has pointed out that out of 38 kms. of cables to be laid, barely 17.5 kms. had been laid till the project was commissioned in March, 1976 and another 12.5 kms. were laid by September 1980 during 4½ years after commissioning of the project. The Committee are distressed to find that slow progress in cable laying was due to the failure on the part of the Department to properly plant the subscribers' cable network which is normally planned to meet 9 years' requirements. It was been stated that due to acute shortage of small size cables, provision could be made only to meet immediate requirements. The abnormal delay in laying the subscriber's cable network resulted in delay in providing new telephone connections and consequent loss of revenue to the Department.

[Sl. No. 12 Para 1.41 of Appendix II to 153 Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

To overcome the shortage of small size cables, following measures are taken :—

- (I) Upgrading the capacity of the existing cable factories-
- (II) Licensing some public sector undertakings to manufacture jelly filled cables upto 100 pairs.

In the meantime, resort is taken to import some quantity of small size cable to meet urgent demands.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl.) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

The Committee regret to note that the departmental instructions of utilising ninety per cent of the exchange capacity by release of new telephone connections soon after the expansion or in any case, not later than six months of such expansion, were not followed on the commissioning of the expanded capacity for 3000 lines in March 1976. Although there were 2661 applicants on the waiting list

for new connections in March 1976. when the exchange was commissioned and 1681, applicants in September 1976 i.e., after 6 months of commissioning of the exchange it took the Department 3 years to load the exchange, to the prescribed extent. The Secretary, Ministry of Communications conceded in evidence that "there was avoidable delay in the matter". The Committee are concerned to note that due to not loading the exchange according to the existing departmental instructions, the Department lost a potential revenue of about Rs. 44 lakhs between Sept., 1976 and March 1980.

[Sl. No. 13 Para 1.42 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The department has appointed a task force for improvement in the external plant at Calcutta. With the provision of ducts, cabinets and pillars, opening of new DPs and better coordination with other public utilities, the rate of providing new connections will improve which in turn will improve the loading of the exchange.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

The instant case provides a typical example of utter lack of project planning and absence of coordinated action during execution of the project as well as after commissioning of the exchange. The Committee trust that the Ministry of Communications would review the entire case in all its aspects and devise a suitable system for ensuring that modern concepts of project formulation and implementation are given concrete shape in future projects of this nature. The Committee consider that a PERT Chart should be drawn up plotting out all the activities and processes in an integrated manner before according sanction to such projects and it should be ensured that the progress of the work is constantly monitored with reference to the PERT Chart so that shortfalls, if any, could be spotted and remedial action taken well in time.

[Sl. No. 15 Para 1.44 of Appendix II to 153rd report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The Committee on Telecommunications as well as the Telecom. Consultants who were commissioned to review the procedures relating to sanction, implementation, monitoring of projects etc., have also recommended that modern concepts should be applied to formulate and implement telecommunication projects. The organisational structure for planning and installation in the headquarters, as well as in the field, is now being changed for expeditious implementation of projects. With the completion of organisational changes, substantial improvement is expected.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

The Committee find that the average duration of faults during the years 1976-80 in Calcutta Telephone system was far in excess of the target fixed by the P & T Department from time to time. As against the target of 5 hours in 1976-77, 1978-79 and 1979-80, actual average duration of faults was 8.6, 23.5 and 16.9 hours in the respective years. In 1977-78, the actual duration was 14.5 hours against the target of 2 hours. The Secretary, Ministry of Communications, conceded in evidence that out of all the metropolitan systems, Calcutta Telephone system is the 'worst'. He added : "It has been functioning with about 33 per cent deficiency." It is scandalous state of affairs.

[Sl. No. 16 Para 1.45 of Appendix II
to 153rd Report of PAC
(7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

1.45 No comments.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983]

Recommendations

The Committee understand that a Task Force appointed by the Department as since indentified the factors affecting the telephone

system in Calcutta and has suggested certain remedial measures viz., continuous power supply, replacement of old exchange lines, providing ducts to cables to protect them, gas pressurisation of cables, etc. The Department is now stated to have set up another special Task Force under an Additional General Manager to implement the recommendations of the earlier Task Force. The Committee trust that these measures would be implemented under a time bound programme so as to ensure that the Calcutta Telephone system is able to provide efficient service to the hitherto much harrassed subscribers. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps taken and results achieved within six months' time.

[Sl. No. 17 Para 1.45 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha].

Action Taken

The special task force at Calcutta has already achieved substantial progress in rehabilitation of the telephone system, as given below:—

Achieved upto 31.3.83

Item	Target	Actual	Percent
Ducting	59.655 Kms.	37.010 kms.	62.04
Pressurization	895 kms.	470.627 kms.	52.58
Cabinets & pillars.	779 numbers.	91 numbers	11.68
Replacement of old cables	31.590 kms.	3.772 kms.	11.94

[M/O Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30.9.1983].

Recommendation

The Committee observe that although the plot of Land acquired by the P. & T. Department in March, 1966 for construction of a telephone exchange building in Railwaypura (Ahmedabad) was surrounded by private land on all the four sides with no direct access to any public

road, the Department did not bother to acquire along with it a portion of another plot measuring 379.19 sq. metres which could have provided direct access to the main public Road. The Committee are not convinced with the argument advanced by the Department that the said plot was not considered for acquisition as it was expected to be taken over by the Municipal Corporation, Ahmedabad (MCA) under its road widening programme. In the absence of any notification in this regard, this was only a presumption. It is unfortunate that the Department relied upon such presumption while planning the construction of a new exchange building in the area. Even after the MOA suggested in March, 1963 that this land should also be acquired by the P. & T. Department till it was required by the MCA, the Department did not initiate the necessary acquisition proceeding. A decision in the matter was finally taken as late as December, 1975 i.e. 9 3/4 years after acquiring the main site. The Committee find that the Department is not required to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 717.53 per sq. metre against the rate of Rs. 372.39 per sq. metre paid for the main site in March, 1966, thereby incurring an extra expenditure of about Rs. 1.32 lakhs. But for a decision given by the Court in favour of the Department to pay compensation for the plot at the rate prevailing in October, 1971, the Department would have been liable to pay a much higher rate. The Committee trust that speedy measures would now be taken to finalise the acquisition proceedings and that such situations would be avoided in future.

[S. No. 18 Appendix II Para 2.49 of 15 rd Report of P.A.C. (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. G.M. has been directed to expedite acquisition of land. To avoid such situations in future instructions have already been issued vide this office letter No. 424-9/76-TPS(C) dt. 7.4.1978 copy enclosed according to which whenever a new site for any development purpose is being acquired, the suitability of the site is examined in advance by a Telecom Engineer, an Architect and a Civil Engineer from the utility and technical angles. The report is to be given in 3 proformas—one each by a Telecom. Engineer, Architect and Civil Engineer. Copy of the letter is placed below. The aspect that adequate approach road to the plot is available is covered under item 8 of part-A. Also whether the site is affected by any

town planning or development schemes is covered under item 10-A of part-A of the proformas. With these instructions it is hoped that such situations would be avoided in future.

[M/O Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 160-21/83-TPS
(Genl)/UPC Dt. 31-1-1984]

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL POSTS & TELEGRAPHS
DAK-TAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI.

No. 424-/76-TPS (C)

Dated, the 1-4-78

To

- (1) All G.M.s. Telcom./G.Ms. Telephones/D.Ms. Telephones.
- (2) C.E. Civil.
- (3) All S.Es./Exens (Civil)/A.Es. (Civil)
- (4) All S.As/RAs/AAs.

SUBJECT:—*Proforma for submitting the suitability certificate for land required for construction of Telephone Exchange Buildings.*

The 6th Plan proposals for the telecommunications have been tentatively agreed to and provide for addition of 11.5 lakhs direct exchange lines. The total plan outlay is envisaged at Rs. 1849 crores which also provides for 39 crores for the staff quarters. The execution of this plan would require a large number of sites to be acquired for telephone exchanges, telegraphs offices and staff quarters in the department.

2. In the past, a number of cases come to light, where while selecting the sites certain essential requirements as to location, suitability from the point of view of architecture and construction, freedom from major obstacles like power lines, sewer lines etc., were not taken into account while acquiring the plots. In some other cases, the availability of water supply, electric supply and outlets for sullage water were lost sight of. This has not only resulted in infructuous expenditure, but also has delayed the scheme for opening for telephone exchanges, construction of quarters etc.

3. To avoid such problems in future, it is proposed that whenever sites are to be selected for any departmental purposes there should be a careful consideration of all the aspects by not only the telecommunication officers but also the architects and civil engineers. In general, it will be desirable that the proposed site is inspected jointly by officers of all the three wings. However, if this is not feasible, in the first instance the site should be inspected and its primary suitability for the purpose for which it is proposed to be acquired should be certified by the telecommunication officers. Therefore, the suitability certificates should also be obtained from the Architectural wing and the Civil Engineers at the appropriate level.

4. For the purpose of issuing suitability certificate it has been decided that such certificates should be issued after inspection by officers of at least of the following rank in the three units :

(i) In towns and cities with population upto 1,00,000 according to 1971 census	} D.E. Telegraph/Telephones/ Regional Architect/Executive Engineer Civil.
(ii) In towns and cities of over 1,00,000 population according to the 1971 census.	

5. In case of sites for telephones exchanges, the following points would need to be considered very carefully :

- (a) *The location of the site from the point of view of the load centre* : The site should be located as near the load centre as possible. However, in case of prospective multi-exchange areas this might not be a critical factor provided a suitable overall multi-exchange net work could be designed to ensure maximum economy in the cables.
- (b) *Adequacy of area and shape of the plot to enable construction of a suitable telephone building* : In general an MAX-I plot should be about 4000 sq. metres. An MAX-II site should be at least 2000 sq. metres. The plot should, as far as possible, be located on a main road, roughly rectangular in shape with a minimum width of about 35 metres.

6. In regard to the Telegraphs Offices building the main factor would be its location with reference to the centre of business and commercial activity and ready accessibility to the public for transacting the counter business.

7. In regard to the staff colonies, the nearness to the various offices, shipping centres and schools would be an important factor besides the type of locality.

In case of selection of sites for housing colonies it will be desirable to associate a representative of the JCM as far as possible.

8 To ensure proper consideration of all relevant aspects a detailed proforma for certifying the suitability of a site has been drawn up. The proforma is in 3 parts, A, B, and C. This proforma is to be personally signed by the officers of the various ranks depending size of the town as laid down in para 4 above. Some of the important points which are required to be kept in mind while furnishing the information in this proforma are discussed below :—

- (a) Part 'A' is required to be filled by the officers of the Telecom. Wing. The telecom. wing officers should ensure that besides the points covered in para 5, 6, and 7, it is ensured that the plot is free from legal encumbrances and encroachment etc. It may also be ensured that no transmission line or sewer line is passing through the plot, shifting of which may cost the Department a substantial amount. It may also be ensured that the plot being acquired does not form part of any green belt and is not subject to other zoning restrictions etc. Although, the telephone exchanges are airconditioned, care is required to be taken that the exchanges are not located in close vicinity of factories producing fumes which may cause corrosion of the equipment.
- (b) Part 'B' is required to be filled by the architects. While furnishing the certificate the architect should ascertain FSI and other such restrictions to ensure that a suitable building of appropriate size can be constructed. Requirements of fire fighting service, construction difficulties also need to be taken into account.

- (c) Part 'C' is required to be filled by the appropriate civil engineering officers. The importment points to be considered are soil bearing capacity, freedom from flooding etc. It may also be ensured that the plot is well located with reference to water supply line, sewer line and electrical line/sub station so that expenditure incurred in providing the various facilities is not excessive. In case, it is felt that these facilities cannot be provided without incurring substantial extra costs, the approximate cost of providing these facilities should be indicated in the proforma.

9. While, in selecting the site all above points have to be considered it is unlikely that with acute shortage of lands in the towns and cities it will be possible to secure a site ideal in all respects. Some compromise may have, therefore, to be made. In this connection, it will be desirable to consider each aspect carefully and to the extent possible quantity the effect of a particular problem in connection with a given side. For example :—

- (i) A particular plot of land, which may be in low-lying areas which get water logged in monsoon may not be normally suitable for the construction of a building but a telephone exchange building is required to be constructed at the load centre and such extra-expenditure if any for utilising such low-lying plot with the construction of basement or by filling the depressed portion may work out to be more economical when compared to the construction of a telephone exchange building on a level plot of land located too far away from the load centre.
- (ii) Even if the particular land does not have a very good soil, e. g. it is made up of filled soil, as in case of dumping ground, the extra cost of providing special foundations like piles/rafts etc. may be covered by the saving in cable costs.

10. It has, therefore, been decided that while issuing the suitability certificates, the extra cost involving the construction of buildings and a particular site due to poor soil condition or low-lying area etc., removal of obstruction like sewer line, power line etc. should also be calculated approximately by the Civil Wing and the Telecom. Officers.

They may then examine whether the extra cost required in constructing the buildings at such site is likely to be compensated by other factors which may be in favour of the chosen site.

11. Since a number of Audit Paras have come in the past due to insufficient care being exercised at the time of selection of sites, it is essential that the proper attention is paid by the officers personally as listed in paras above so that such cases are avoided in future.
12. Receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Sd/-
 (K D. VAIDYA)
Member (TD)

Copy to :-

1. Directors (XP)/(B)/(BT)/(X)/(L)/(TX)/(Telecom. Trg.)
2. All ADGs in Planning Branch.

Proforma for the site suitability certificate for a Telephone Exchange Building/Staff Colony/Telegraphs Office etc.

Part 'A'—To be filled by DEP/Director (Telecom.) DEP/Dy. (G.M).

1. Name of Station.
2. Name of locality where site is located.
3. Survey number and other identification particulars of the site (please attach a sketch indicating location of site with boundaries neighbouring landmark and main access roads to the plot.)
4. Broad dimensions of the plot and area.
5. (a) Name of the Owner of the land.
 (b) Is the clear title of the owner established ?
 (c) Is the plot free from encumberances, encroachments and squatters ?

- (d) Is the land on lease or free hold ?
- (e) Is lease-hold the period and terms of lease.
- (f) If the land suitably fenced or boundary walls provided ?

6. (a) *If the land is meant for Telephone Exchange.*

- (i) Is the plot within the area of search w.r.t. load centre.
- (ii) If not, how far it is located from the load centre ?

(b) *If the land is meant for Telephones Office.*

- (i) Approximate distance from the existing Telegraphs Offices.
- (ii) Approx. distance from the main centre of commercial activity.

(c) *If the land is meant for staff colony.*

- (i) Approx. distance from the centre of Town;
- (ii) Approx. distance from the nearest shopping complex;
- (iii) Approx. distance from the nearest educational institution.
- (iv) Approx. distance from main P&T offices in the town.
- (v) Has the staff representative from JCM been consulted?
Does the staff approve of location ?

7. Is the area of the land adequate for the purpose for which it is proposed to be acquired ?

8. Is there an adequate approach road to the plot for bringing materials, access to fire-engines etc.

9. (a) Is the land free from obvious obstacles to construction like :-

- (i) Power line passing through the plot.

- (ii) Power lines crossing the plot without possibility of shifting.
- (iii) Obvious flooding. If there be any doubt on any of these points give details.

(b) Has the land adequate access for transporting Man and materials and for fire brigade etc., and suitably located from the point of view of surroundings ?

10. Are there likely to be any municipal restrictions like sowing, green area, height of building etc. in the areas ?

10. (a) Whether the site is affected by any tours planning or Development Scheme ?

CERTIFICATE : I have personally inspected the site on.....
made local enquires about title of plot, Municipal restrictions etc. and subject to the confirmation of suitability for construction by Civil Engineers/Architects consider the plot suitable for acquisition for a Telephone Exchange/Telegraphs Office/Staff colony.

DET/PRP
 Director (Telecom.) DGM

Proforma for issuing suitability certificate for site for Telephone Exchange/Staff Colony/Telegraph Office.

Part—‘B’ To be filled by Regional Architect/Senior Architect.

1. Name of Station.
2. Name of locality where the site is located.
3. Survey No. and other identification particulars of site (Please attach a sketch indicating location site with boundaries, neighbouring land marks and main access roads).
4. Board dimensions of the plot and area.
5. Name of the Owner.
6. Purpose for which plot is being considered.

CERTIFICATE

1. The plot of particulars mentioned above has been personally inspected by me on The plot has been found suitable from Architectural point of view for construction of a Telephone Exchange/Telegraph Office/Staff Colony from the point of view of location dimension and shape of the plot, surroundings, approach roads and other factors.
2. Taking the local by-laws, permissible FSD and ground coverage into consideration it will be possible to construct about..... sq. metres of floor area over..... storeys.
3. Taking the local by-laws, permissible FSD and ground coverage into consideration it will be possible to construct about..... houses on..... storeys basis.
4. I consider the plot unsuitable from architectural point of view because of the following reasons :—

N.B. Please strike of whichever is not applicable.

Regional Architect/
Senior Architect.

Proforma for suitability Certificate

For site for a Telephone Exchange/Staff Colony/Telegraph Office.

Part—'C' (to be filled by Executive [Civil/S E. (Civil)].

1. Name of Station.
2. Name of locality.
3. Survey No. and other identification.
4. Particulars of the site.
5. Broad dimensions of the plot.
6. Attach sketch (indicating location of site with boundaries, neighbouring land marks and main access roads to the plot).

7. Name of owner/Owners.
8. Whether the plot has been indentified.
9. Demarcated by Telecom./Civil Wing field/authorities site.
10. Nearest Railway Station, Bus Station, if any and distance from the jurisdiction.
11. Where water supply is available.
12. If available please show its distance from plot, diameter, pressure in mains and whether it is intermittent or continuous. Specify the sources of supply such as hand pumps with depth, alternative tubewells with depth.
13. Whether A.C. or D.C. electricity is available.
14. What is the voltage and distance of low tension supply from plot or distance of high tension supply mains from plot.
15. Availability of Municipal drain and type of urinals and laterines generally provided in the locality.
16. Does any encroachment exist on the plot.
17. (a) Whether any public drain passes through the land, if so, whether it is likely to be diverted easily.
(b) Whether any HT/LT line is passing through plot which may require shifting.
18. Are there any doors or windows opening on this land which can interfere with future construction on this plot ?
19. Is the plot in level, higher or lower than in centre of road level on which rain water can be drained and if so, how much ? (in fact.)
20. What is the possibility of drainage of stored water from plot during the rains ? How and where it can be drained off above levels of one of the public road.
21. Are there any buildings adjacent to the plot whose foundations

may interfere with construction of a building in the plot proposed to be acquired ?

22. Approximate cost of leveling plot raising it by about..... feet. So that stored water could be drained above centre of one of the public roads.
23. Nature of soil on top, whether black cotton soil, and if so upto what (depth and recommended depth of foundation.)
24. Depth of filled up soil if any.
25. Depth of good soil, upto which foundation will have to be taken.
26. Any other important feature that needs to be taken into account in regard to the suitability of this plot ?

I have personally visited the site on..... In view of the above the site is considered to be suitable/unsuitable from construction point of view.

Executive Engineer
Civil Division, P&T
Superintending Eng.
P&T Civil Circle

Recommendation of the Committee

The Committee are constrained to note that by the time the 3000 lines Strowger equipment was installed in November, 1972, even order for the air-conditioning (A/C) Plant-I had not been placed. The Department placed the indent on the DG S&D as late as in December, 1973, i.e., one month after installation of the equipment. The A. C. Plant could be commissioned only in March. 1974. It took another 33 months before the prescribed first test was conducted successfully in December, 1976 against the due date of July, 1976 stipulated in the contract. The Department has admitted that "3000 lines of Strowger exchange were without air-conditioning for a short period of about a year. This would increase the fault incidence and maintenance efforts for some time.

[Sl. No. 19 Appendix II, Para 2.50 of 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

To avoid such lapses in future and to synchronise the work of air-conditioning with that of equipment installation, the work of design, tendering and installation of air-conditioning plant is now entrusted to P & T Civil Wing, instead of DGS & D. Instructions on the subject issued *vide* No. 500-3/73-TPS (BT) dated 4th November, 1977 are attached.

[Ministry of Communications P&T Board DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl)/UPC; dated 31st July, 84].

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

No. 500-3/73-TPS (BT), Dated New Delhi-110001, the 4th Nov., 77.

To

1. All Heads of Telecom. Circles.
2. All Heads of Telephone Districts.
3. All General Managers (Maintenance).
4. All General Managers (Projects).
5. General Manager, T&D Circle, Jabalpur.
6. Chief Engineer, P&T Civil, P&T Dte., New Delhi.
7. Superintending Engineer, Electrical, P & T Civil, New Delhi/Bombay.
8. S.E. (Airconditioning), New Delhi.
9. All Senior Architects, P&T Civil Wing.

Sub :—Planning, installation and maintenance of central airconditioning plants for buildings in the P&T.

1. In supersession of all previous orders on the subject, it has been decided that :—

- (i) Henceforth P&T Civil Wing, in consultation with the Heads of Telecom. Units concerned, will carry out the work of planning, drawing up detailed specifications for individual cases, inviting tenders and installing all central airconditioning plants in P&T Department.
- (ii) As at present it will be the responsibility of the General Manager, T & D Circle to draw up and keep up-to-date the I.P.&T. General standard specifications for air-conditioning plants for use in P&T. For this purpose he should consult the Civil Wing and Planning Branch of the Directorate wherever necessary. The individual specification to be prepared and issued by the Civil Wing for each installation shall conform to those general specifications.
- (iii) The inspectors of the General Manager, T&D Circle, will continue to be responsible in association with the Civil Wing authorities for the final acceptance, inspection and testing, including all performance tests. An acceptance certificate shall be obtained from the inspectors of the General Manager, T&D Circle, before the plants are finally accepted and taken over. Specific cases requiring relaxation of any condition shall be referred to the P&T Directorate (Civil Wing). Member (TD) will, in consultation with C.E. Civil and the Finance Wing, wherever called for, be competent to issue such relaxation on behalf of the P&T Board.
- (iv) The first line maintenance of air-conditioning plants will as hitherto be the responsibility of the Officer-in-Charge of the concerned Telecom. installation under the respective Heads of Telecom. units. The P&T Civil Wing will draw up suitable operating and maintenance instructions for the guidance of the concerned authorities and will render all necessary advice to the Telecom, authorities in this connection.
- (v) The second line maintenance which will include periodical inspections and overhaul of air-conditioning plants, will be the responsibility of the Civil Wing.

2. An Air-conditioning Cell has been created under the charge of

a Superintending Engineer (A/C) in the P&T Civil Wing with headquarters at New Delhi. (His address is 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001). To ensure that timely action is taken for completion of airconditioning plants in co-ordination with the programme of installation of Telecom. equipment, the following instructions shall be followed :—

- (i) A copy of the schedule of accommodation of each building with particulars of rooms required to be air-conditioned occupancy figures and heat dissipation will be supplied to S.E. (A/C), New Delhi, by BT Cell of Planning Branch and Heads of Circle and Telephone Districts, as the case may be, as soon as it is approved by the competent authority.
- (ii) The S.E. (A/C) will co-ordinate with the Architects and the Civil Engineers. He will obtain the information regarding local meteorological data, availability of suitable water and any local power restrictions, etc. for finalising the detailed design of the proposed air-conditioning plant and the NIT.
- (iii) The S.E. (A/C) will send a requisition to the MM Cell of Planning Branch, containing the details of all items to be imported by the Department alongwith complete technical specifications at least 1½ years in advance of the likely date of their actual requirement in the air-conditioning plant installations. He will also intimate detailed particulars of the relevant sanctioned projects. The budgetary requirements of foreign exchange, on yearly basis, will be sent by him to MM Cell regularly in the month of February.
- (iv) The S.E. (A/C) will be responsible for working out the water and power requirements for the a/c plant and for ensuring their timely availability.
- (v) Sanction of the detailed estimate for the A/C plant will be obtained by the S.E. (A/C) from the Heads of Telecom. Units concerned in cases where the work is within their financial powers (Rs. 20 lakhs at present). For cases above this value, estimates will be submitted to the BT Cell of the Plan-

ning Branch for obtaining sanction of the competent authority.

- (vi) The S.E. (A/C) will follow departmental procedures for issue of NIT and acceptance of tenders. Separate orders in this regard will be issued. When orders for A/C plants are finalised, copies of orders will be made available to the following authorities :—
 - (a) General Manager, Telephone District, Telecom. Circle/ General Manager Projects concerned.
 - (b) General Manager, T&D Circles (Acceptance testing Wing) Ridge Road, Jabalpur-482006.
 - (c) Divisional Engineer Phones/Telegraph concerned.
 - (d) BT Cell of the Planning Branch.
- (vii) The S.E. (A/C) will be responsible for supervision of installation and its timely completion. He will arrange suitable programme for Acceptance Testing, including the seasonal tests in consultation with G.M., T&D Circle.
- (viii) General Manager Telephones/Projects will watch the progress of air-conditioning installation *vis-a-vis* the programme of equipment installation through periodical co-ordination meetings. Representatives of S.E.(A/C) will attend these meetings and will apprise the co-ordination committees with the progress of installation and hold-ups, difficulties etc. if any.
- (ix) The S.E. (A/C) will forward a consolidated progress report on all new air-conditioning plant installations to DDG(S) once a quarter from the time approved schedule of accommodation is intimated till the A/C installation is finally accepted and taken over.
- (x) The installation drawings (like plant room, layout, duct layout, cooling tower location, etc.) submitted by the contracting firm shall be approved by the S.E. (A/C) in consultation with the concerned General Manager Projects/Telephone District, as the case may be.

(xi) As soon as the plant is commissioned, list of installed equipment, maintenance and operation manuals, spare parts, electrical wiring diagram and other relevant details required for operation and maintenance of the plant will be furnished by S.E. (A/C) to the Officer-in-Charge, of the Telecom. Unit under proper receipt.

3. All new works for air-conditioning plant installations in Circles have already been entrusted to Civil Wing. All new works in Districts in which NIT has not been issued shall also be transferred with immediate effect to the S.E. (A/C). Separate orders will issue on case-by-case basis in all cases where progress has already been made beyond the issue of NIT.

4. S.E. (A/C) will assess the performance and adequacy of existing A/C plants and take action for alterations, improvements and replacements after obtaining the approval of the competent authority, to bring them back to good working condition within six months. He will submit a monthly progress report in this regard regularly to the BT Cell of the Planning Branch, who in turn, will submit a report to the P&T Board.

Sd/-
 (S. Sankara Raman)
 Member (TD)

Copy to :—

1. DDG (MS)/EBI/Finance/ML/MM of P&T Dte, New Delhi.
2. Directors (E)/XP/X/I/RD/TX/ML/PHX/Finance of P&T Directorate, New Delhi.

Recommendation

The Committee fail to understand why advance action was not taken to obtain the air-conditioning equipment so as to synchronize its commissioning with the installation of the exchange equipment. In fact, this is not a solitary instance of lack of planning. The Committee have already drawn attention to the inordinate delay in providing air-conditioning in the Bagh Bazar Exchange. The Committee would like

the Department to analyse the reasons for such repeated failures with a view to taking remedial action so that costly and sophisticated exchange equipment is not exposed to dust/humidity.

[S. No. 20 Appendix II Para 2.51 of 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

To ensure that the Air-conditioning plant starts functioning before installation of equipment, these days airconditioning estimates are being sanctioned like building estimates independently even of the project estimates. Moreover instructions have already been issued vide this office letter no. 758-7/78(TPS) Gen. dated 24-2-78 to hold quarterly coordination meetings with Civil Wing Officers to watch progress of the project including A/C Plant. Instructions have also been issued vide this office letter No. 555-1/73-TPS (XC) dated 5-4-1974 (copy enclosed) in which field units have been authorised to instal room air-conditioners with additional filter units to control the dust in cases where Central Air-Conditioning Plant has been delayed.

With above arrangement, it is expected that A.C. Plant will synchronize with installation of equipment and in an extreme case where it is delayed, room-air-conditioners will be installed to ensure that sophisticated exchange is not exposed to dust/humidity.

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board DGP&T Memo. No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 31-1-84].

Copy of the letter No. 555-1/73-TPS(XC) dated 5-4-74 from Directorate to All Heads of Circles, GMTs, GMPs etc.

Sub :—Installation of Crossbar exchange airconditioning of equipment rooms.

In several instances of installation crossbar exchanges it is found that commissioning of the airconditioning plant is not done by the time the frames are required to be mounted on the bays. Recently, the entire procedure of the indenting on D.G. S&D liasioning with the suppliers of the plant was reviewed and suitable instructions have been

issued vide this office letter No. 28-1/63-TPS (BT) dated 22-10-73 so as to keep a strict watch over the implementation of several steps required for the timely commissioning of the Air Conditioning Plant. The results of the implementation of such instructions will be known only after some time.

In some of the crossbar exchanges installations, the installation of air conditioning plant has not progressed to a satisfactory level. It is likely that the frame mounting will have to be started even through the switch room is not air conditioned.

In order to ensure relatively dust free atmosphere in the switch room it is decided that sufficient number of room air conditioners will be installed. These air conditioners may be fitted with additional filter units so as to control the dust ingress to a more satisfactory level. Action must be taken to maintain these filters in proper condition by frequent cleaning.

The Circles, in which the crossbar installation are in progress may take necessary early action for procuring the required number of window type air conditioners and instal them in the switch room. They may coordinate with the concerned G.M.S. Projects for the timely installation of these units. Installation Exchange equipment should not be delayed or postponed due to non-availability of room air conditioners. When the Central air conditioning plant is commissioned, the window units may be diverted to MAX-II exchange in the Circle.

Sd/-

(K.D. Vaidya)
Dy. Director General (S)

Recommendation

The Committee regret to note that the Department failed to obtain concession of 50 per cent in excise duty on AC Plant by providing the prescribed concessional duty (CT2) certificate resulting in an additional expenditure of Rs. 0.47 lakhs. The Committee are not satisfied with the casual explanation given by the Department that "this being a transaction between two Government Department, there is no loss to

the Government of India. "The Committee expect that such lapses will not be allowed to recur.

[S.I. No. 22 Appendix II Para 2.53 of 153rd Report of P.A.C (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Noted. Suitable instructions have already been issued, vide this office letter No. 760-27/81 TPS (Genl) UPC dated 11-8-1982 (Copy enclosed).

[M/O Communications (P&T Board) DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl), UPC Dated 31-1-84].

INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

To

All Heads of Circles.

Sub : Furnishing of excise duty concessional certificate (CT-2) to avail concession in excise.

A Case has come to notice where-during purchase for air-conditioned plant, a certificate (CT-2) required to avail concessional excise duty was not furnished by the Department. This has been adversely commented upon by the Audit in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (P&T)-1980-81 since presented to the Lok Sabha. In the action taken notes submitted to PAC, we have committed that instructions on the subject are being issued/reiterated to all Heads of Circles. Therefore it is enjoined on all Heads of Circles to ensure that in all cases of purchase of stores/equipment, the facility of concession in excise duty must be availed wherever admissible.

2. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.

Sd/-

(R.P. DHAWAN)
(Director) (X.P.)

Copy to :—

1. DDG (EA), (FD), (EB), (Electronics), (EL), (L), (MM) (S), (Satellite), (RDTF), (TF).
2. Director (BT), (E), (ES), (ESP), (ESM), (ESW) Inspn (T), (MMC), (MMD), (MMS), (RD), (RDTF), (SL), (SPM) (Satellite), (TF).
3. ADGs (BG), (BT), (Cable), (EA), (EE), (EL), (ESM) (ESL), (EST), (ESE), (Imports), (SAT-II), (XT), (UHF), (UPC) (XP), SAT-I.

Sd/-
 (R.P. DHAWAN)
 Director (XP)

Recommendation

The Committee find that under "demarcated area" cable system a number of working connections were transferred from the existing three exchanges, namely, Railwaypura-I Exchange, Central Exchange and Raipur Gate Exchange to the two new exchanges namely Railwaypura-II and III exchanges leaving spare capacity in the former. The Committee are concerned to note that the spare capacity of the aforesaid 3 old exchanges was not utilised to the permissible limit i.e. upto 94 per cent of their equipped capacity, by providing new telephone connections to the persons on the waiting list as a result of which the Department lost a potential revenue of about Rs. 23.32 lakhs between September, 1978 to March, 81.

[Sl. No. 25 Appendix II Para 2.56 of 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha) 1982-83].

Action Taken**No. Comments.**

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83-IPS (Genl) UPC Dated 31-1-84].

Recommendation

The Committee find that the main reason for delay in providing new telephone connections was acute shortage of cables. The Committee have been informed that "there would be a wide gap in the supply and demand for cables for the next few years unless adequate manufacturing capacity is set up in the country." As the Hindustan Cables Ltd., are not in a position to meet the demand fully, the gap between the demand and supply of cables is estimated to be of the order of 6.22 lakhs ckm in 1981-82 and 14.12 lakhs ckm in 1982-83. This is expected to increase to 107.40 lakhs ckm by 1988-89. Certain proposals for augmenting the production capacity are stated to be under consideration of Government. The Committee can not emphasise too strongly the need for bridging the widening gap in the demand and supply of cables by expanding the indigenous production capacity without loss of time so as to obviate imports. It should also be ensured that the available capacity is put to optimum use. The committee trust that efforts to attain self-sufficiency in this regard would be pursued with vigour.

[Sl. No. 26 Appendix II Para 2.57 of 153rd Report of P.A.C. (7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

The recommendation of the Committee is noted. Work on establishment of additional cable factory at Hyderabad is already in progress. A proposal for a 2nd Factory in India is under consideration of the Government.

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl) UPC Dated Jan., 1984.]

Recommendation

The Committee find that the performance of the telephone exchange at Railwaypura, Ahmedabad has been worse than the prescribed norms in the matter of faults and fault attendence, junction failures as well as STD failures during the years 1978-79 to 1980-81. The potential loss of revenue on this account is estimated by Audit to be of the order of Rs. 248.11 lakhs, bulk of which is attributable to STD failures (Rs. 200.23 lakhs). The Department is stated to have taken certain remedial

measures in this regard, viz., complete reorganisation of staff, traffic measurement of all routes for equipment and augmentation of equipment junctions, overhauling and rehabilitation of internal and external plants, AC plant and power plant, improving the environmental conditions in the exchange building, gas pressurisation of underground cables etc. Consequently the performance from April, 1981 onwards is stated to have substantially improved. The Committee would like the P&T Authorities to keep a close watch on the performance of the new exchange equipment installed at considerable cost with a view to ensuring that optimum benefits are derived and the services rendered to the public show distinct improvement.

[Sl. No. 27 Appendix II Para 2 58 of 153rd Report of the P.A.C.
(7th Lok Sabha)]

Action Taken

Recommendation of the Committee has been noted. GMT, Ahmedabad, was directed to monitor the performance of the Railwaypura Exchange to ensure satisfactory services. GMT has since reported that the performance of Railwaypura exchange has since improved considerably which is being maintained.

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl) UPC Dated, 3.-1-84].

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

The Committee further observe that the supply and installation of the equipment for the exchange took 9 long years from March 1967, when the order for equipment was placed, till March, 1976, when the exchange was commissioned. The manufacture and supply of the equipment by the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) took more than 5 years. Although the first consignment of the equipment was received from the ITI in August, 1970, the supply of entire equipment should be completed by ITI only in 1972. The representative of the Ministry assured the Committee in evidence that "there is now more interaction between the P & T Department and ITI" and as a result "there is balancing of the equipment and it takes three years to complete supply of equipment after ordering." The Committee would like strict watch to be kept by the P & T Directorate to ensure that there is proper synchronisation in the placing of order on the ITI, the construction of the exchange building and receipt of the equipment in such cases.

[Sl. No. 4 Para 1.33 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Production coordination meetings are being held with ITI to review the progress of the supply of equipment *vis-a-vis* the target for commissioning of the exchange. Priority for equipment is adjusted according

to the availability of the building as well as hold-ups, if any, in the supply of equipment by the ITI.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No 760-20/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

Recommendation

The Committee are distressed to note that by the time the building was constructed and taken over in May, 1970, even the specifications for the Airconditioning (AC) Plant were not finalised by the P&T Department though the plant was required to be installed in the building before commencement of installation of the equipment. It took the Department two years to place indent on the DGS&D for the airconditioning plant on account of delays in obtaining heat/load dissipation, water analysis report and other parameters. The indent for the AC Plant was placed on the DGS&D only in September, 1972 *i.e.*, barely a month before the sophisticated components of equipment were unpacked and installation of exchange equipment commenced in October, 1972. It took another 14 months for the DGS & D to place the order on the firm concerned. This needs to be explained.

[Sl. No. 8 Para 1.37 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Delay in obtaining heat load dissipation, water analysis report and other parameters was due to lack of coordination between various agencies involved in this work. To avoid such delays coordination committees, formed under GMs Telecom. *vide* letter No. 758-7/78-TPS (Genl) dated 24-2-78, hold regular meetings and are expected to ensure timely solution to such problems.

The delay in finalizing the acceptance of Tender by DGS & D was due to protracted correspondence between the office of GMT and DGS & D regarding non-receipt of tenders of few of the tenderers. Duplicate copies had to be obtained before comments could be sent on the suitability of offer. Once the recommendations of GMT were recei-

ved, orders were promptly placed by DGS&D within two months. The procurement of A/C plant is now entrusted to P&T Civil Wing instead of DGS&D to avoid such delays in future.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

Recommendation

The Committee need hardly Point out that such long exposure of costly and sophisticated equipments to dust and moisture is bound to effect its efficiency. The Committee would, therefore, like the Department to ensure that in future the air-conditioning plant is installed tested and pressed into service to syncronise with the commossioning of telephone exchange.

[Sl. No. 11 Para 1.40 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The estimates for construction of building and installation of air-conditioning plant are processed simultaneously for sanction so that airconditioning is available alongwith the completion of the building. Co-ordination meetings are now being held regularly between Civil Wing engineers and P&T equipment installers for timely availability of air-conditioning.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THE REPLIES TO WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION

Recommendation

The execution of the project for installation of a 3000 lines cross bar type telephone exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta, provides yet another example of indefensible lack of planning and coordination resulting in enormous delay in its completion. The project was sanctioned in November, 1966 but could be commissioned only after about 9½ years i.e. in March, 1976.

[Sl. No. 1 Para 1.30 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

The PAC had also earlier commented adversely on the delays in execution of Telecom. Projects. On their advice, a special officer was appointed to investigate the cause of delays and to recommend suitable action. The recommendations of the OSD are being implemented progressively, so far as these apply to this case.

[M/O Communications (P & T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT HAVE FURNISHED INTERIM REPLIES

Recommendation

It is regrettable that the requisite staff could be positioned only by November 1974. As the Project was sanctioned as early as November, 1966 i.e. 3 years earlier, the Committee fail to understand why advance action could not be taken in the matter and timely positioning of be requisite staff ensured. This is again indicative of utter lack of planning in this case. The Committee would like the reasons for this delay to be investigated thoroughly with a view to fixing responsibilities and taking necessary remedial measures for the future.

[Sl. No. 6 Para 1.35 of Appendix II to 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Action has been taken to investigate the inordinate delay in posting of adequate staff for this project and fix up responsibility and take appropriate remedial measures so that such lapses do not occur in future.

[M/o Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

Recommendations

The above paragraphs clearly bring out that there have been inordinate delays at all stages of the execution of the project i.e., in the construction of the building, installation of the equipment, laying of cables and loading the exchange to the prescribed extent within the specified period. In their earlier Reports,* the Committee have been

* 145th Report (5th Lok Sabha) — paras 1.314 & 1.316
14th Report (6th Lok Sabha) — para -1.82.

emphasising the need for fixing responsibility for delays and loss of revenue to Government in such cases. Here is another instance of indefensible delay practically at every stage of the project. The Committee cannot therefore, but reiterate their earlier recommendations. The Committee desire that a thorough enquiry be conducted in the matter to find out the causes of delay at various stages of the project with a view to fixing responsibility and taking action against the officials concerned. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter in six months' time.

[Sl. No. 14 cf Appendix II, Para 1.43 of 153rd Report of PAC
(7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

GM Telephones Calcutta is being directed to conduct a thorough inquiry to find out the causes of delays at various stages of the project with a view to fixing responsibility and taking action against the officials concerned. Since the number of projects handled by the department is large and that there are several agencies controlling various components of the project, it is difficult to avoid delays unless one authority, exclusively for control of one project, is sanctioned. The Committee on Telecommunications had commended a post of Project Director for every project costing above Rs. 5 crores. The matter is still under consideration of the department.

[M/O Communications (P&T Board) O.M. No. 760-20,83-TPS
(Genl) UPC dt. 30-9-1983].

Recommendation

The Committee regret to observe that in spite of the fact that the highest tender of firm 'A' was accepted (extra cost Rs. 1.8 lakhs) in this case, relying upon the earlier performance of the supplier. Certain defects were noticed during the tests. Even after incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2.33 lakhs, the plants have been giving unsatisfactory service as one or the other compressor of both the plants remained inoperative for greater part of the years 1978-79 to 1980-81. The position during 1981-82 is stated to have improved to some extent. The argument that one of the compressors in each plant has been working

and that the total failure has been much lesser days betrays unique sense of complacency and disregard for public fund. The Committee would like the matter to be investigated thoroughly with a view to fixing responsibility. The Committee would also like to know whether any claim for damage was preferred against the firm. If not, necessary action in this regard should be initiated forthwith.

[S. No. 21 Appendix II Para 2.52 of 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha 1982-83)]

Action Taken

General Manager has been directed to investigate the case thoroughly with a view to fix responsibility and also indicate claim preferred against the firm according to the terms of contract.

[M/O Communications (P&T Board) DGP&T Memo No. 760-21/83 TPS (Genl) UPC Dated 31-1-84].

Recommendation

The Audit Para has pointed out a number of irregularities in the accountal and utilisation of cables for the Railwaypura exchange. The Committee understand that in March, 1979 complaints of alleged irregularities and losses were received by the Central Vigilance Commission which referred the matter to the C.B.I. for investigation. At same time, the DG P&T also appointed a team of three officers to investigate the complaints. The Committee find that the allegations could not be substantiated for want of evidence. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) therefore advised the P&T Department to close the case if there had been no loss or misappropriation of Government stores. The Department have since assured themselves that there was no element of *malafide* intention on the part of officers who executed the work and that there was no loss or misappropriation of funds in the matter barring certain procedural irregularities regarding sanction and maintenance of cable record etc.,

[Sl. No. 23 Appendix II Para 2.54 of 153rd Report of P.A.C. (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Entries in respect of all the cables have since been made properly and all the cables have been fully accounted for.

[Ministry of Communications (P&T Board) DGP&T Memo. No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl.)/UPC dated 31st Jan. '84].

Audit Comments U.O. No. RR. II/2 (d) 2097-II 1452 dt. 28-1-'84

The report of the departmental Committee placed at serial Nos. 54 and 55 of the Directorate files does not contain the annexure (in which most of the findings are stated to be contained). In the absence of these annexures it has not been possible to verify the matter fully. The adjustments stated to have been carried out in the accounting of cables are being got verified through our branch offices.

Comments of P&T Board :—The annexures contained in the report referred by audit in their above comments are being obtained from G.M; Telephones, Ahmedabad. These will be furnished by audit and their comments along with their appropriate action by P&T will be furnished separately to Lok Sabha Secretariat thereafter.

Ministry of Communications (P&T Board) D.G. P&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 3.-1 84].

Recommendation

The Committee find that the Department did not inform Audit regarding the findings of CBI/CVC. The Committee are not convinced with the reply of the Department that "the relevant files were confidential files". This is serious matter. The Committee see no reason why access to documents in cases where irregularities were suspected should have been denied to Audit. The Committee would like the Department to issue necessary instructions in this regard without delay. The Committee would further urge that remedial action should be taken to set right the procedural irregularities pointed out by the team of departmental officers and the system of maintenance of the cable records spruced up, as necessary.

[Sl. No. 24 Appendix II Para 2.55 of 153rd Report of PAC (7th Lok Sabha)].

Action Taken

Reports of the C.B.I. and that of departmental officers are being shown to Audit. The report of the departmental officers does not indicate any discrepancy in utilisation of cables but points about updating of cable records. This has already been done.

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board DGP&T Memo. No. 760-21/83-TPS (GENL)/UPC dated 31st Jan. 83.]

Audit Comments vide their U.O. No. RR-II/2 (d) 2097-II/1452 dt. 28-1-84.

The report of the Departmental Committee placed at serial No. 54 and 55 of the Directorate files does not contain the annexure (in which most of the findings are stated to be contained). In the absence of these annexures it has not been possible to verify the matter fully. The adjustments stated to have been carried out in the accounting of cables are being got verified through our branch offices.

Comments of P&T Board :—The annexures contained in the report referred by audit in their above comments are being obtained from G.M. Telephones, Ahmedabad. These will be furnished to audit and their comments alongwith appropriate action by P&T will be furnished separately to Lok Sabha Secretariat thereafter.

[Ministry of Communications, P&T Board D.G. P&T Memo No. 760-21/83-TPS (Genl) UPC dt. 31-9-84].

No. 6901/1/12/79-GD-II-ABD
 Government of India
 Central Bureau of Investigation
 Department of Personnel & A.R. (MHA)
 Sardar Patel Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dated, the 6-6-79

To

Smt. C. Narayanaswamy,
 Director, C.V.C.,
 No. 3, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
 New Delhi.

Sub : Rupees Three Crores Scandal and misappropriation at the Top in Ahmedabad Telephones.

Sir,

Please refer to your O.M. No. 39 P&T 44 dated 22-3-79 on the above mentioned subject.

Verification revealed that Shri P.K. Vyas has made the allegations against Shri J.M. Gupta, former G.M.T., Ahmedabad. Shri Vyas is not able to give any specific instance or evidence in support of the allegations made by him. He states that he had received the information from some sources. However, it is learnt that a three member team from the office of the D.G.P.&T is inquiring into the allegations made by Shri Vyas and that their enquiry is nearly complete. It is, therefore, requested that the report from the DGP&T may be obtained and if a further probe by the CBI is considered necessary, we may be informed of the same.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(S.K. Seth)
Dy. Inspector General of Police
C.B.I.

Technical Audit Report

U/G Cable of utilisation in Ahmedabad Telephones

As desired by Member (D) and DDG (Vig) a technical audit committee to test check the U/G cable recovery and utility pertaining to Railwaypura Projects II and III (Viz. PL 4348 and PL 2033) was formed in Ahmedabad on 21-2-1980. The members of the committee were the following :—

S/Shri

(i) R. Parthasarathy, Director (TC), P&T Directorate.

- (ii) P.D. Garg, Dy. General Manager (Plg.), Ahmedabad Telephones.
- (iii) G. Ratham, V.O. Gujarat Telecom Circle, Ahmedabad.

The committee called for all the U/G cable estimates relating to the above two projects. All analysis was made on estimates where recovery of cables/abandonment was provided and new cables proposed on the same/new routes. This analysis aimed at finding out the utility of recovered cables as well as new cables. After going through relevant drawings on the concerned estimates, the committee identified Eighteen (18) (Seventeen Pits + One store verification) points from actual physical test check to see whether the cables are available as proposed in the drawings. Out of a total of 73 sanctioned estimates in both the projects, 17 estimates only contained proposals for abandonment/recovery of cables. The detailed analysis of these estimates are available at annexures 1 to 8.

The criteria for choosing the test points were :—

- (i) Recovery or abandoning of cables and using higher capacity cables in the same route.
- (ii) Utility of New cables proposed.

Accordingly seventeen pits were dug and the presence of U/G cable were checked with the drawings. The exact locations are listed in annexure—'A'.

Each Divisional Engineer has given a certificate that, to the best of his knowledge no other estimates are pending pertaining to Railway-pura-II and III Projects where recovery of cables is involved, other than the one listed in Annexure 1 to 8.

Findings of the Committee :—

The committee selected the points at random to check the utility of new cables and any deficiency in new cables by old cables utilisation.

No major discrepancy in cable positions was found in these pits from the relevant marked cable positions in the estimate drawings except the records to be updated.

Sd/- (G. RATHNAM)	Sd/- (P.D. GARG)	Sd/- (R. PARTHASARTHY)
Vigilance Officer Telecom. Circle, Ahmedabad.	Dy. General Manager (Ptg) Ahmedabad Telephones.	Director (TC) P & T Directorate

NEW DELHI;
August 23, 1984
Bhadra 1, 1986 (Saka)

SUNIL MAITRA,
Chairman,
Public Accounts Committee.

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH SITTING OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (1984-85) HELD
ON 21 AUGUST, 1984**

The Public Accounts Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1700 hours on Tuesday, the 21st August, 1984 in Committee Room No. 50, First Floor, Parliament House New Delhi. The following were present :

Shri Sunil Maitra—Chairman

MEMBERS

2. Shri G.L. Dogra
3. Shri Bhiku Ram Jain
4. Shri Mahavir Prasad
5. Shri Jamilur Rahman
6. Shri Uttam Rathod
7. Shri Suraj Bhan
8. Shri Ram Singh Yadav
9. Shrimati Amarjit Kaur
10. Dr (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla

REPRESENTATIVES OF AUDIT

1. Shri S. Sethuraman—*ADAI (Reports)*
2. Shri S.P. Gugnani—*ADAI (Railways)*
3. Shri S. Shivasubraman—*DRA II*
4. Shri K. H. Chhaya—*JD (Rlys.)*
5. Shri N. R. Rayalu—*JD (Defence)*
6. Shri S. K. Gupta—*JD*

7. Shri G. R. Sood—*JD (R-P&T)*
8. Shri R. S. Gupta—*JDA (Defence Services)*
9. Smt. Suman Saxena—*JDA (P&T Audit)*
10. Shri S. P. Joshi—*D.A. CW&M*

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri H. S. Kohli—*Chief Financial Committee Officer.*
2. Shri K. K. Sharma—*Senior Financial Committee Officer.*
3. Shri V. Jayaraman—*Senior Financial Committee Officer.*

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3. The Committee considered the following Draft Report and adopted the same with certain modifications/amendments as shown in Annexure I.....

- (i) Draft Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their 153rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) relating to (i) Opening of a new automatic exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta and (ii) Projects for installation of three telephone exchanges at Railwaypura, Ahmedabad.

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4. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise the Reports after incorporating therein certain modifications/amendments out of factual verification by Audit and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE 1

Modifications/Amendments made by the Public Accounts Committee in their Draft Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee contained in their 153rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) relating to (i) Opening of a new automatic exchange at Bagh Bazar, Calcutta and (ii) Projects for installation of three telephones exchanges at Railwaypura, Ahmedabad.

Page	Para	Line(s)	Modifications/Amendments
5	1.10	3 from bottom	<i>For</i> "31,590" <i>Read</i> "31.590"
5	1.10	2 from bottom	<i>For</i> "3,772" <i>Read</i> "3.772"
6	1.10	6-7	<i>For</i> the words "provide much needed.....in Calcutta" <i>Read</i> "ensure its speedy imple- mentation"

APPENDIX

Statement of Recommendations and Observations

Sl. No.	Para	Miny./Dept. Concerned	Recommendation/Observation
1	2	3	4
1	1.3	M/o Communications (P&T Board)	<p>1.3 The Committee regret that though a period of nearly sixteen months has elapsed since the Report was presented to the House, the Ministry have yet to furnish final action taken replies in respect of four recommendations. The Committee desire that final action taken replies in respect of these recommendations, duly vetted by audit should be submitted to the Committee within a period of three months.</p>
2	1.7	-do-	<p>1.7 In their earlier Report, the Committee had commented adversely on the inordinate delay in the commissioning of Bagh Bazar Telephone Exchange. The project which was sanctioned in November 1966 could only be commissioned in March 1976, i.e., only after about 9½ years. The Committee had expressed the view that this was yet another example of indefensible lack of planning and co-ordination resulting in enormous delay in its completion. In their action taken reply the Ministry of Communications have</p>

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stated that the Public Accounts Committee had also earlier commented adversely on the delays in execution of telecommunications projects and on their advice a special officer was appointed to investigate the causes of delays and to recommend suitable action. It has further been stated that the recommendations of the Officer on Special Duty are being implemented progressively so far as these apply to this case. The Committee are not satisfied with this vague reply of the Ministry. The least that the Ministry should have done was to intimate the findings of the Officer on Special Duty regarding the causes of delays, the recommendations made and the action taken by the Ministry on each of the recommendations. The Committee desire that this should now be done without delay.

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3 1.10 M/o Communications (P&T Board)

1.10 Commenting on the unsatisfactory performance of the telephone system in Calcutta, the Committee had in their earlier report pointed out that a Task Force appointed by the Department has since identified the factors affecting the telephone system in Calcutta and suggested certain remedial measures. The Department had set up another special Task Force under an Additional General Manager to implement the recommendations of the earlier Task Force. The Committee had expressed the hope that these measures would be implemented under a time bound programme so as to

ensure an efficient service to the much-harassed subscribers. In their action taken reply, the Ministry of Communications (P&T Board) have stated that the Special Task Force at Calcutta has already achieved substantial progress in rehabilitation of the telephone system. The Ministry have also furnished figures of targets and achievements upto 31-3-1983 in various fields. From a perusal of the figures, the Committee find that the claim of the Ministry regarding substantial progress is not substantiated. For example, under the head "replacement of old cables", against the target of 31,590 kms. the achievement is only 3,772 kms. i.e. 11.94%. Similarly in the programme for "cabinets and pillars", against a target of 779 numbers, the achievement is only 91 numbers i.e., 11.68%. The Committee desire that the programme for the rehabilitation of the telephone system in Calcutta should be expedited so as to ensure its speedy implementation.

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