

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 30th March, 1988."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.10 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Commissioning of Electronic Telephone Exchange at Nagpur.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Nagpur city consists of four Telephone Exchanges namely, Main, Itwari, Hingna and Kamptee, with a total installed capacity of 20100 lines.

12.10½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Against this, there is a waiting list of about 15,000. This clearly indicates the backlog and the urgency to commission more Exchanges at Nagpur. Even the existing exchanges are very old and outdated Electro-Mechanical type. It is understood that there is a proposal to instal 10,000 line Electronic Exchange which is pending since long. It is essential that this Exchange is commissioned immediately. In addition, there are proposals to open new Exchanges at Sakhardhara, V.R.C.E., Hingna and Kamptee. Due to the delay in setting up new exchanges, the old equipments are allowed to continue thereby adversely affecting the service to the public. Even this waiting list of 15,000 is not a real indication of the actual telephone demand at Nagpur as people hesitate to block their money, there being no scope for new connections being given in the immediate future.

In view of the position mentioned above, I earnestly urge upon the Government to immediately implement the propo-

sal of commissioning of 10,000 lines electronic exchange at Nagpur. Action should also be initiated to open New Exchanges at Sakhardhara, VRCE, Hingna and Kamptee.

[Translation]

(ii) Need to build a memorial for Shri Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi and to declare March 25 as National Integration Day.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour) : The metropolis of Kanpur occupies a glorious place in the history of the country for the role it played in the national freedom struggle and also in maintaining and strengthening the national unity, integrity and communal harmony. The great martyr, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi ranks among those front line martyrs who laid down their lives for the cause of nation. He was a man of undaunted courage who valued his principles and ideals higher than his life. As an irrepressible journalist, he always held the torch of freedom high. He made relentless efforts to make people aware of their duties towards the nation. Vidyarthiji displayed indomitable courage in frustrating the despicable conspiracy of the foreign rulers when they tried to give a communal colour to the violence which erupted following the hanging of the great son of the nation, Bhagat Singh on March 23rd, 1931. In the wake of this violence, he tried to maintain communal harmony and even laid down his life on 25th March, 1931 in this pursuit. On being impressed by his sacrifice, Mahatma Gandhi had commented that his sacrifice inspired the countrymen to follow his path. But it is highly regrettable that no memorial has so far been raised in the memory of this great martyr.

Therefore, the Government is requested to raise a memorial in the memory of the immortal martyr Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi at the site where he laid down his life and declare 25th March as the communal harmony and national integration day. If possible, 25th March should also be declared a holiday and the people should be inspired to follow the ideals of late Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi in order to maintain communal harmony.