

I thin what he has given would be enough for the whole session.

श्री राज नारायण : जो सूचना मुझे से देने से बची है वह माननीय सद य रोज प्रखबारों में पढ़ते होंगे ।

SHRI L. K. DOLEY: We do not have any objection to his personal vengence against the former Prime Minister and Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. The exceptional protection given to him to make such a long statement preventing others from asking supplementary questions is undesirable. We have to put questions.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a number of other questions. You can put a question later on. Please sit down.

Proposal for improvement of Calcutta Telephone

*66. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been voiced by the people and press of Calcutta against functioning of Calcutta Telephones, and especially regarding operation of 'Cross-Bar' system of new exchanges;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereabout;

(c) whether the Government promised on several occasions earlier regarding (i) giving additional phone connections (ii) connecting Calcutta through STD with other cities of India and (iii) improving its operational system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for development and improvement of Calcutta Telephones?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We **CATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):** (a) and (b). Complaints have been received. A special programme for improving the functioning of the various exchanges of the Calcutta Telephone System, the in-

door and outdoor plant and equipment and the subscribers' fittings and installations is under way.

(c) and (d). Over 28,000 new telephone connections have been provided during the last 3 years. Installations are in progress to add 40,000 lines to the telephone system most of which are expected to be completed by March 1978 when a substantial portion of the present waiting list would be cleared.

Calcutta stands connected to 19 towns on STD including Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Patna, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Muzaftarpur.

To improve the operational efficiency about 50 per cent of the subscribers installations would be inspected and attended to this year. All strowger equipment is being overhauled and cross-bar exchange equipment is being upgraded. Underground cables are being pressurised. Some administrative and commercial work is being gradually de-centralised and put under the Area Managers.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Recently a few new exchanges of the cross-bar system have been installed in Calcutta. It is a general complaint of all the subscribers that these cross-bar systems have miserably failed to function. In his statement the Minister said that he wants to upgrade it. I just want to know whether this is due to the chemical fault in the system itself or due to any operational fault. I have myself some experience of the cross-bar system and on my request they reverted to the other system. What I want to know is this. I want to know whether the difficulty is due to the equipment itself or due to operational faults and so on. If so I want to know how you are going to handle this matter.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We have number of problems in Calcutta. There was this problem with the cross-bar system but many improvements were made in the cross-bar

system. These equipments are functioning much better now than in the earlier years. Calcutta's problem is much more than these equipments. There is lot of developmental activity going on in Calcutta; Calcutta streets get soaked and our cables get damaged. As I said, we have started pressurising these underground cables. We will be able to monitor better if any cable gets damaged so that remedial action could be taken immediately.

Then, Sir, we have also the problem of power in Calcutta. There is a lot of load-shedding. As you know, the telephone equipment is a very sensitive equipment and all our telephone exchanges are airconditioned. Now, whenever there is loadshedding, these exchanges are invariably exposed to the elements. The dust comes in and the sensitive equipment tends to get damaged. This is one of the problems with which we are faced which is due to power shortage in Calcutta as a whole.

These are the problems that we normally face in that city and in course of time, we should be able to improve the situation.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, I had the privilege to attend the Telephone Advisory Committee meetings twice and these are the straight answers that we were always given when we were present at the Committee meetings. It is not a question of mechanical fault only; there are operational faults and human faults also. We all know the functioning of the CME. Very frequently all newspapers of Calcutta are complaining about the functioning of the Calcutta telephone exchange. Would you kindly accept the suggestion for a small committee of Members of Parliament being constituted to go into details about the nature of the complaints, the cause of defects and what are the improvements that could be made so that Calcutta Telephone Exchange could really function. Actually, Calcutta Telephone Exchange does not function.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether in Calcutta he has installed the old cross-bar equipment and whether it has been installed in collaboration with the ITT a multinational Corporation? I understand that your ministry has introduced the new techniques with the Indian technicians' help with some modification. Will you introduce or install those new machines in Calcutta and make them all right?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Just now we are concerned with expansion programme in Calcutta where we are installing about 40,000 telephone lines. Of these, 20,000 are on the new cross-bar system—Japanese Cross Bar system—which will be installed in Tiretta Bazaar while the remaining 20,000 lines on the improved cross-bar system.

श्रीमती चन्नावती : किन्तु ही लोगों के जो मलत नम्बर मिलते हैं, ये क्रॉस-बार की बजह से मिलते हैं या नान-एफीशियंट लोग जो टेलीफोन वालों में बैठे हैं, उनकी बजह से मिलते हैं।

श्री जार्ज कर्नानडिस : इसमें अध्यक्ष महोदय कई समस्याएँ हैं। कहीं मशीनों की भी समस्या है और कहीं घाटाओं की भी समस्या है। इसको सुधारने का प्रयास चल रहा है।

Measures to benefit Families of Victims of Forced Sterilization

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*67. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:**
CHAUDHARY HARI RAM
MAKKASAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the measures Government propose to adopt for the benefit of the families of those who died of forced sterilisation during the Emergency?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री
(श्री राज नारायण): यदि नसबन्दी प्रापरेशन कराने वाले व्यक्ति की प्रापरेशन के कारण