

Assistance to the States. Government have accepted those guidelines, according to which 60 per cent of the Central Assistance is distributed on the basis of their population.

Shifting of Telecommunications Channels from Calcutta to Bombay and setting up of Second Satellite Ground Station for International Telecommunication near Delhi

*664. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain international telecommunication channels, operating between Calcutta; on one hand, and Australia, Hongkong and Japan, on the other have been recently been shifted from Calcutta to Bombay ;

(b) if so, the reasons for such shifting ;

(c) whether the second satellite ground station is going to be set up near Delhi for international telecommunication service ; and

(d) if so, the reasons why the superior commercial, political, geographical, meteorological and other claims of Calcutta in this regard are being over-looked ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) to (d). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b). Only overseas traffic being carried through the Satellite Communications Ground Station at Arvi is now being routed *via* Bombay. Other overseas traffic from the Calcutta area continues to be handled by the Calcutta Station of the Overseas Communications Service. The traffic has been shifted to satellite system in order to make available reliable and better quality service to the public.

(c) and (d). Yes. It has been decided to set up a second Satellite Ground Station in the northern region during the Fourth Five Year Plan. This decision is based on traffic considerations, as Delhi region ranks next to Bombay region in over-all range of public international telecommunication traffic.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In regard to this satellite communication service, is it not a fact that the existing line being very old and subject to frequent breakdown due to heavy rainfall or cyclonic conditions, the traffic to and from Calcutta has to be routed through Bombay now and is also frequently disrupted and this causes great inconvenience to the public, to business, to trade and commerce and so on ? Therefore, is it not desirable that the link up with the satellite communication system should not be only through the station at Arvi but regional ground centres should be set up and Calcutta should have an independent ground station ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : The proposal to set up a ground station near Calcutta is already under consideration. Delhi and Calcutta are the two places which are on the list. Delhi having a higher traffic than Calcutta was preferred first and the second ground station is coming in Delhi. Bombay had the highest traffic and it was chosen first. Next comes Delhi. The third ground is proposed to be put up somewhere in Calcutta when funds are available.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it not a fact that before even the Bombay station was set up the foreign experts who were consulted in this matter had adjudged an area near Assansol near West Bengal, to be the best site for the first earth station and is it not a fact that they have suggested this because Calcutta is the country's main centre for export trade, which has the busiest international air routes, and the whole of South East Asian and Japanese traffic is picked up for the eastern region ? Why is it that this expert advice was ignored and Bombay was given preference first and even now when the second station is to be set up the claims of Calcutta are being ignored ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : So far as the expert opinion referred to by my hon. friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, is concerned, I am sorry to say that I am not aware of that particular advice. But the facts on record show that Bombay has the highest international traffic in terms of the entire telecommunication range—telephone, telex, tele-
— and so on and so forth. Thereafter

comes Delhi and Calcutta is the third. Therefore, we have chosen two to put up two centres in the Second Plan itself. But in view of the paucity of funds it was not possible to choose both of them. Delhi is a place where we have these embassies and the traffic is of a very high order. So, we have preferred Delhi first. It is a question of preference and not ignoring.

SHRI SANJEEVI RAO : Are Government taking advantage of the advanced technology of satellite ground station for telecommunication system as such? What are the effective steps the Government are taking for utilising satellite channels for television as in the case of advanced countries such as United States, Soviet Union and Sweden?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very specific question about Calcutta. We cannot have a general discussion on this. He can discuss it when the relevant demands come up.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us if he has received a detailed memorandum from the employees of the Overseas Communication Service, Calcutta, giving their technical views on the location of the telecommunication service in India and, if so, what is it and what action has been taken on that?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : The question of setting up a satellite centre near Calcutta has not yet been finalised. Therefore all sorts of views are before the government. At the appropriate time all these views, including those of my hon. friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, will be taken into consideration.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I asked a specific question whether he has received a detailed memorandum from the employees of the Overseas Communication Service.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : I am not aware of any such memorandum.

Anandpur Barrage Project

*666. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to

state the difficulty on the part of the Planning Commission to approve the Anandpur Barrage Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : It has not been possible to approve the Anandpur Barrage Project for inclusion in the Fourth Plan of the State since the requisite resources are not in sight to take up the work at present.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : I want to know whether Salandi Project was considered as an integrated one along with Anandpur Barrage Project.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : There are several projects in Orissa. This problem was examined by the Planning Commission. Even though this project has been technically approved, unfortunately no funds are available and naturally it could not be taken up.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Is it not desirable to approve of the Anandpur Barrage Project immediately to have the full benefit from the Salandi Project on which we have already spent a sum of Rs. 1.24 crores for canals, investigation and survey?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : The Anandpur Barrage Project, estimated to cost Rs. 21.94 crores, was cleared by the Technical Advisory Committee. But when they took stock of the situation regarding the availability of funds they came to the conclusion that only Rs. 1.75 crores were available in the plan of the Orissa State for Irrigation projects. So, three medium schemes in backward areas have already been cleared by the Planning Commission and they have been taken up. Even though this project has been technically approved and it is necessary to take up this project, I am sorry it could not be cleared for want of funds.

SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA : This Anandpur Barrage Project is an integrated project along with Salandi. Unless this barrage materialises the Salandi Project will be set at naught.

MR. SPEAKER : Perhaps the Minister is already aware of it. Let him ask the question.