

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Tuesday January 22, 1985/*

*Magha 2, 1906 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUK-  
HOPADHYAY (Asansol).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Telecommunication Facilities in Gujarat

\*37. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the telecommunication facilities made available in backward, tribal and hill areas of the country, particularly in Gujarat ; and

(b) the number of public telephones installed in the country and in Gujarat under the scheme up till now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Telecommunication facilities made available are primarily Long Distance Public Telephones and Combined Offices.

(b) The number of Long Distance Public Telephones installed in the country and in Gujarat in rural, backward, tribal and hilly areas during

the 6th Five Year Plan up to 15.11.1984 are 9,301 and 155 respectively.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the requisite information has not been given. Sir, through you. I want to know from the hon. Minister full details of the scheme formulated to provide telephone facilities in backward areas of the country in general and a large Adivasi area in Gujarat in particular as also the steps being taken to provide such facilities in those backward Adivasi villages in the State whose population is one thousand each.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, it is correct that the telephone facilities provided in Adivasi and backward areas are not adequate. Keeping this in view, our Ministry had constituted a Task Force in 1979 to find out as to how telephone facilities in rural areas can be augmented. They have made several recommendations. One of the major recommendations is that telephone facilities should necessarily be provided at least within a radius of five Kilometres. This recommendation of the Committee has been accepted. But how far we shall be able to implement it, will depend on the allocation of funds made to our Ministry for this purpose during the Seventh Five Year Plan. In Gujarat, as I have already stated, the facilities which have been made available in 155 backward hilly and Adivasi areas, are not sufficient to meet the requirement. We shall try to improve the position considerably during the Seventh Plan period.

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Sir, this is the third time that I have been returned to Lok Sabha from the

Chhota Udaipur Constituency, but there has been no improvement in the telephone facilities there since then. If you want the planned development of Adivasi areas, it is absolutely necessary to provide telephone facilities to them. The direct line between Chhota Udaipur and Baroda always remains disrupted. These two areas, even otherwise require double line. I want to know when this area is going to have an effective direct and double line ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, the hon. Member wants to know as to how the direct line between Chhota Udaipur and Baroda can be converted into double line. At present, this information is not available with me, but we will certainly consider the suggestion which the hon. Member has made here.

**SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know the schemes being chalked out for extension and improvement of telephone service in Delhi ? By what time the present waiting list will be covered and what steps are being taken by the Government to reduce the waiting period ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You are asking about the capital. Please give a separate notice for this. The relevant information with regard to your question will not be available with the Minister now as the main question does not relate to Delhi. You should give a separate notice for this

**SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the tribal area which I represent, P.C.Os in rural areas remain out of order for 360 days during 365 days of a year. The entire Baroda-Ahmedabad line remains dead. Secondly, when a particular number is dialled, the talk on that number can be overheard on five other telephone numbers. I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the functioning of the

telephone lines of our area would improve and the fault of the talk on one number being overheard on the other would be removed ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Why don't you ask as to how the telephone lines remain in order for five day ?

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** Sir, it is true that Adivasi and hilly areas have typical problems. Direct telephone lines installed in hilly areas are sometime disrupted. It is, therefore, proposed to instal radio-telephone in hilly areas during the next plan period in order to avoid wire installation. I think we will be able to remove the deficiencies pointed out by the hon. Member.

**SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the share of Bihar in the scheme formulated for the development of tribal and hilly areas, because the facilities available at present in hilly areas are quite inadequate.

[English]

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA :** This relates only to Gujarat.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER :** You will get the reply if you give a separate notice for that.

[English]

**SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI :** The question of the country, is country as a whole, particularly Gujarat.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next Question. Shri Mool Chand Daga.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Question No. 38.

SHRI SATENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Sir, Question No. 52 is identical with Question No. 38. I would request that these two Questions be clubbed together.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If all agree, these can be clubbed. Do all agree to it? The Minister-in-Charge should also agree to it.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Merger.

MR. SPEAKER . Complete merger—

[Translation]

—has not been agreed to.

[English]

#### Gas Leakage Tragedy in Bhopal

\*38. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Union's repeated warnings went unheeded' appeared in "*The Indian Worker* New Delhi" dated 17 December, 1984 relating to leakage of gas in the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in 1981 when liquid phosgene spilled and in 1982 when mechanical pump was damaged ;

(c) whether the staff union had warned about the impending dangers through posters : and

(d) whether the other such manufacturing concerns in the country have been checked for safety now; if, so details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) (a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has reported that it took the following action on the accidents which took place in the Union Carbide factory at Bhopal on 24-12-1981 and 10-2-1982 :—

(1) 24-12-1981 : The accident occurred on account of inhaling of Phosgene vapour by one of the workers, after he removed the breathing masks, following spillage of Phosgene. The worker died. The Factory Inspector visited the factory and carried out the inspections. Following instructions were given to the management :

- (i) While opening the flanges of pipes, at the time of maintenance, the workers should be instructed first to remove the bolts on the side away from him and only then the bolts on his side, so that there is no chance of any left over fluid spilling on the workers.
- (ii) The workers should be properly instructed in the use of breathing apparatus.

An inquiry under Section 90 of Factories Act was ordered and the Inquiry Report is under consideration of the State Government. A criminal case was also registered against some officers of the company under Indian Penal Code. The case is pending in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal.