

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether a two-day conference of the Chief Secretaries of all States was held in New Delhi in June, 1989;

(b) if so, whether toning up of intelligence was discussed at the Conference; and

(c) the details of other subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Conference of Chief Secretaries discussed the various issues relating to the proposal to strengthen urban local government. There was a general consensus that elections to the urban local bodies should be held regularly and a sound financial basis provided to these bodies. Reservation of seats for women in the elected levels of the urban local government was also urged.

2. The communal situation in the country was reviewed and the need for coordination between the Intelligence agencies of the Government of India and the State Governments was emphasised.
3. The administrative issues related to effective implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were discussed.
4. Note was taken of the recent measures taken by the Government of India for filling up the backlog of vacancies in the posts reserved for members of the SCs and STs and

their adequacy and effectiveness assessed.

5. The working of the Public Distribution system was reviewed. The need for effective implementation of the Essential Commodities Act and enforcement of preventive measures against hoarding and other malpractices was highlighted.
6. The conference also briefly reviewed the various steps taken by the Government of India and the State Governments to make the administration more efficient, effective, responsive and participative.
7. It was also urged that the All India Services should be encouraged to function effectively and objectively. Towards this end certain specific measures for raising the morale of the members of the services were also discussed.

Wrong Billing Cases at Varli Telephone Exchange

852. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Varli Exchange in Bombay has implemented the scheme known as "mission: better communication and locking of external dipples" since long;

(b) if so, the advantage of the Scheme and how it is functioning;

(c) whether it has been applicable in other parts of the country; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for which the wrong billing cases are increasing; and

(c) the action taken or contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This scheme has resulted in increase in the efficiency, reduction of telephone faults.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) the increase in number of complaints is mainly due to extension of the STD service and ISD service to a large No. of exchanges.

(e) The following steps have, however, been taken by the Government to avoid such cases:

- (1) All complaints are first examined for clerical errors, and then for technical faults in the internal/external plant;
- (2) Sometimes the telephone line is also kept under special observation;
- (3) The Subscribers line is also tested suo motu whenever any spurt is noticed;
- (4) Wherever, the No of calls recorded in the bills under reference is more than 100% of the highest number of calls metered during the 6 billing periods immediately preceding the disputed period, the bill is split up, if so requested by the subscriber, and he is asked to pay only the average of the said 6 billing periods plus 10% thereof immediately. The balance amount is kept in abeyance, till finalisation of investigations;

(5) Extensive powers have been delegated to the subordinate units to facilitate decision of such complaints; and

(6) All these complaints are mostly settled within two months.

Population below poverty line in Bihar

853. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR VERMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the various proposals of the Union Government to bring at par the percentage of people below poverty line both in rural as well as urban areas of Bihar, in comparison of other States like West Bengal and Orissa;

(b) the percentage of Tribals/Schedule Castes in Bihar specially in Chhotanagpur belt of the State living below the poverty line; and

(c) the programmes of Government to raise their standard of living?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIONS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI):

(a) Ongoing poverty alleviation programme in order to lift people above poverty line in Bihar are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. Other programmes relate to training, land reform and special components programme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) The percentage of tribals/scheduled castes living below poverty line in Bihar in the year 1983-84 are stated below.