

for the area connected with the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee had been constituted for the purpose; and

(d) if so, when and the recommendations of the said committee and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir, such a proposal is under consideration.

(b) The Government fully appreciates the necessity to provide efficient telecom. Network to link up Metropolitan cities with peripheral area. With a view to achieve this, it is proposed to provide direct dialling between such stations.

(c) Yes, Sir. An internal working committee was constituted to examine this matter.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee were:

(1) The existing principles for demarcating a local area may continue;

(2) No distinction be made between specific peripheral areas calls between exchanges not within the local area out laying common border may be charged as for distances slab of 0-20 kms;

(3) A tariff for the distance slab of 0-20 kms at the rate of 100 seconds pulse rate for subscriber-dialled calls may be introduced.

(4) Tariff increase for Trunk calls in the distance slab of 0-20 kms and 21-

50 kms. respectively may be considered.

(5) Introduction of time-metering for calls within the local area to begin within Electronic Exchanges in telephone systems of 30,000 lines and above may be considered, and

(6) Increase in Revenue by way of revision of rentals etc. may be examined separately to offset the estimated loss.

These are still under the consideration of the Government.

#### **Increase in LA freight charges**

7144. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total increase in the freight charges made by the Indian Airlines during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the total profit earned by the Indian Airlines as a result of this and the expenditure incurred thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indian Airlines domestic freight charges were revised by 30% on sectors of 300 Kms. and by 20% on sectors of 301 Kms. and above in July, 1989. These rates were further revised by an average of 16.6% during October, 1991.

(b) Since revenue from carriage of cargo is only incidental to the main passenger revenue earnings, no separate profit/loss is compiled on this account. However, Indian Airlines earned a revenue of about Rs. 65.00 crores in 1990-91 for carriage of freight.