

the prices of some drugs while there were reductions in the case of others.

(b) The prices of price controlled bulk drugs and formulations are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Quality control is exercised on drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules made thereunder to prevent the manufacture of spurious drugs.

[English]

Excessive Telephone Billing

1156. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the new arrangements, if any, to enable telephone subscribers to get prompt redress for excessive telephone billings ;

(b) whether final authority to decide such complaints will vest in the area managers or the general managers of the major Metropolitan districts ; and

(c) whether, pending disposal of the complaints, the subscribers will be compelled to pay the disputed bills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) There has been no change in the existing arrangement for redressal of complaints on excess billing. The Area Managers and General Managers have been delegated financial powers for disposal of such complaints finally within the delegated powers.

The cases beyond their powers and those of appeals are decided by higher authorities. As per the existing rules, if the bill for local call charges in a S.T.D. station is for an amount exceeding double the amount of the highest local calls billed during the preceding one year, the complainant is asked to pay a part of the bill provisionally and the balance is kept as disputed pending investigation. Once the case has been investigated and decided the subscriber is asked to pay the balance amount due, if any.

Telegraph Offices in Rural Areas

1157. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in India where the telegraph offices are working at present ;

(b) the State-wise break-up of such telegraph offices ; and

(c) the time by which Government propose to cover the entire rural area with net work of telegraph offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 32,884 villages in rural areas in the country are having telegraph offices as on 15.1.1985.

(b) The information is as per attached statement.

(c) The Long Distance Public Telephones/Telegraphs offices are likely to become accessible within five kilometres to most habitations in the country progressively by 1990, subject to financial and material resources being available.

Statements

State-Wise Break up of Telegraph (Combined) Office in Rural Areas as on 15.1.1985

S. No.	Name of Circle	Number of villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5056
2.	Bihar	2439
3.	Gujrat (including, Gujrat, Dadar, Nagar Haveli, Diu, Daman).	1225
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	290
5.	Karnataka	2315
6.	Kerala (including Kerala, Mahe & Minicoy, Lakshadweep, Amindive Islands)	1472