

amount is not made use of by the department except in case of default in payment of dues by the subscriber. The amount is kept under deposit. This amount increases as and when tariff is revised increasing the rent of a telephone.

(c) As indicated above, the security amount obtained by the department cannot be made use of by the department for provision of facilities.

(d) For improving telephone service, performance of different exchanges is being regularly monitored and defective equipments/plants are attended to. Special drives have been initiated in large telephone systems for overhauling of exchange plants, replacement of heavy open wire alignments by underground cables, gas pressurisation of junction and primary cables, close coordination with local authorities to minimise the incidence of damage to underground cables and reduction in electric power shut-down, etc. Action is also regularly taken to improve the design and manufacture of equipments.

Complaints against forced Sterilisation

695. SHRI KANWAR IAL GUPTA:

SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government in the last two months against forced sterilization;

(b) the broad details thereof;

(c) the names of officers and public men responsible therefor and action taken by Government against them; and

(d) how many persons have been compensated against forced sterilization and the total amount spent on it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) to (c). A very large number of complaints have been received during the period. Out of these

complaints quite a few refer to alleged forcible Sterilisation and harassment at the hands of motivators and other Family Planning staff. These complaints are being looked into in consultation with the State Governments.

Out of these complaints it has been possible to sort out nearly 4100 and approximately 50 per cent are complaints regarding forced Sterilisation and request for compensation. The Central Govt. has set up a Grievances Cell in the Department of Family Welfare and has also advised the State/ Union Territory Administrations to set up similar Grievance Cells under them to process and examine the complaints and Grievances pertaining to Family Planning drive. All such complaints where excesses at the hands of staff or other agencies are alleged, are forwarded to the concerned State Govt./Union Territory Administrations for prompt and speedy enquiry. It has been suggested to the States/ Union Territories to fix the responsibility for the excesses and to take appropriate action against those responsible for harassment of the people.

(d) There is no scheme for giving cash compensation to those who report having undergone sterilisation under force and as such the question of spending any amount does not arise.

Increase in Lay-Offs

696. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the incidence of lay-offs;

(b) whether any instructions have been issued to States to prevent such lay-offs; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha after it is received.