

(b) and (c). The oil companies have a well established system of accounting all filled and empty cooking gas (LPG) cylinders given to the refineries/bottling plants, their LPG dealers and when received back from them. If any discrepancy is noticed, the cost of missing cylinders is recovered from the LPG dealers/transport contractors at the penalty rate also giving them due warning. Complaints are also filed with the Police for investigation.

Effect on power sector due to recent rise in coal prices

1797. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent 15 per cent rise in coal prices, power sector which consumes the fuel in a substantial quantity will be affected; and

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). On account of the recent revision of coal prices, the power sector will also be affected. The coal price rise was, however, unavoidable in view of the rise in the costs of inputs wages, interest, depreciation, etc.

Sarin Committee Report

1798. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether P&T Department has procured automatic meter observation equipment for individual telephone lines with which all calls made by a subscriber can be recorded in detail;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) when the instruments are likely to be fixed;

(d) total cost of expenditure involved; and

(e) by what time the implementation of recommendations of the Sarin Committee will be fully completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A few sets of automatic meter observations equipment have been procured for field trial in some exchanges. These will not be individual to each telephone.

(b) This equipment is capable of recording the called number, time of calling, duration of call etc. This will be used in observing the lines to enable settling the billing complaints.

(c) Field Trial of this equipment has started.

(d) The approximate cost of a single line observation equipment is Rs. 50,000/- per unit.

(e) The Committee on Telecommunication has made 437 recommendations (which include 3 sub-recommendations). 209 recommendations have already been implemented. 24 recommendations have not been accepted by the Govt. 28 recommendations which include the restructuring of the P&T Department and its bifurcation as also the splitting of IIT into two units are still under consideration. These recommendations have a very wide impact on the future of the services and all possible implications have to be gone through in detail. The balance 176 recommendations are being processed for implementation and it is expected that the decision on implementation on these will be completed in a few months time.