

Outstanding dues of MTNL

5816. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of outstanding dues to MTNL for Delhi and Mumbai as on June 30, 1998 separately and the manner in which it compare with the position during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a)

(Figures in lakhs of rupees)

	Outstanding Dues as on		
	30.6.96	30.6.97	30.6.98
MTNL, DELHI	44261	51694	55765
MTNL, MUMBAI	30171	35591	41786

(b) Telephone bills are payable within 15 days from the date of issue of bills. In case of non-payment by the pay-by-date, i.e., 15+6-day grace period, a surcharge at prescribed rates is levied.

Telephonic reminders are issued to the defaulting subscribers. Registered Notices are also issued to the subscribers of non-electronic and FETEX exchanges. In case of non-payment even after this, the telephones of defaulters are disconnected. In the case of electronic exchanges, however, the facility of incoming calls is allowed for another 15 days before full disconnection.

Pursuit of outstanding dues is also made with subscribers through correspondence, visits by the field staff and legal action.

Permission for Setting up Professional Institutions

5817. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to prevent lopsided growth of medical and engineering colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints that some states are being discriminated against in getting permission for starting new professional institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Medical Council of India are statutory authorities for coordinated development of Technical and Medical Education respectively in the country. Growth of engineering and medical colleges is regulated by these Authorities through their guidelines and Regulations. As far as the Government is aware, there is no discrimination against any State in the application of the provisions of these Regulations.

Multicore Scam in SAI

5818. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multicore scam in the Sports Authority of India's Netaji Subhash Western Centre, Gandhinagar has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the matter; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Internal Auditors, while conducting the routine Internal Audit of the SAI Regional Centre, Gandhinagar for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, made certain observations. Most of the Audit observations have since been complied with. The Government will watch the compliance of the outstanding paras.

Allotment of STD/SD Booths to Physically Handicapped

5819. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: