

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:74

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

AJAY CHAKRABORTY;INDRAJIT GUPTA;RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has named 11 private telecom companies for non-payment of various dues to the government and asked the DoT to investigate the matter;
- (b) the outcome of the investigation made in the matter; and
- (c) the details of action taken by the government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On a review of the case, it transpires that different instructions issued by the Telecom Directorate to field units covering recoveries, such as rent from leased circuits, interconnection charges etc. from operators of cellular and paging services, had not been adequately assimilated as the interface with the private sector in these areas is of comparatively recent origin. The fact that these instructions were to reach as many as 324 field units spread all over the country may also have resulted in some instances of relevant instructions not being connected. These factors resulted in delayed billing for different periods from January 1997 onwards.

(c) C&AG pointed out short-billing of charges from 11 private telecom companies in 6 Telecom Circles for different periods from January 1997 onwards, amounting to Rs.122.92 lakhs. The Department has since issued bills worth Rs.129.29 lakhs after a case-by-case investigation, and recovered Rs.103.41 lakhs till date. The matter is being pursued for further recovery.