

**MR SPEAKER** This matter relates to the whole of India

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am coming to the question If the rain water is collected and stored within the periphery of a village, it will strengthen the irrigation facility Will the Government of India provide financial assistance to the State Governments to implement such system and include it in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

**SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA** Mr Speaker, Sir, implementation of small irrigation projects is completely under the charge of the State Governments Wherever technical assistance and the advice of the Central Government is required, we provide them

[English]

**SHRI K KUPPUSWAMY** I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government proposes to take any action to utilise excess flowing rain water from Tamil Nadu, Kerala border to Arabian sea to help water starved Coimbatore District

Is there any proposal to divert excess water from northern States to Tamil Nadu either through Garland Canal Scheme or any other new scheme?

**SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA** I have already stated that interlinking of various rivers is under study and as soon as this study is over, we will be able to say something candid about it

[Translation]

#### Theft of Telephone Equipment in Delhi

\*554 **SHRIMATI BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA KUSI  
MARIA**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is an increase in the

incidents of theft of telephone cables and P C M equipment in Delhi,

(b) if so, the number of such incidents during 1991-92,

(c) the loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof

(d) whether the Delhi Police has recently caught a number of persons who were involved in such thefts

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the steps being taken to check such incidents?

[English]

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (P V  
RANGAYYA NAIDU)** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The number of such incidents from April 1991 to March, 1992 was one hundred sixty eight

(c) The loss suffered on account of material cost in the above incidents of thefts is Rs 19 82 662

(d) Yes Sir

(e) The details are given in the State ment below

(f) The following steps are being taken to check such incidents

(1) Patrolling of important cable routes

(2) Double locking of manhole covers and external chain, putting external chain and lock arrangement on PCM cabinets

(3) Laying of cables in concrete in open culverts

(4) Close coordination with police authority

## STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Date	Location of theft	Persons apprehended	Police Station	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	19.1.91	Near Check Post ITO Bridge	2	Shakarapur	Apprehended by two employees of MTNL
2.	2.2.91	Opposite Laxmi Nagar Exchange	1	Preet Vihar	2 employees of MTNL apprehended one Shaheed and him to police
3.	29.8.91	Wazir Put Ind. Area	2	Ashok Vihar	The culprits were apprehended by Sh Mahesh Chowkidar.
4.	1.10.91	Ashok Vihar	1	Ashok Vihar	One culprit Mustafique caught by Sh Ravinder Mohan, MTNL employee and handed over to Police.

Sl No.	Date	Location of theft	Persons apprehended	Police Station	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
5	18 10 91	Near electric crematorium behind Red Fort	1	Darya Ganj	2 MTNL employees apprehended accused Vijay Sharma
6	18 10 91	ITO Bridge	2	Shakarpur	2 persons-- Ramesh and Ramu caught by jhuggi dwellers and handed over to police
7	4 1 92	Opp Punjabi Bagh Club	1	Punjabi Bagh	One person Saifuddin caught and handed over to Punjabi Bagh Police Station
8	4 1 91	Cable Store Paschim Vihar exchange	5	Paschim Vihar	Five persons including three MTNL employees were apprehended at the instance of a cable construction officer MTNL

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Date	Location of theft	Persons apprehended	Police Station	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
9	4.3.92	Near Lawrence Road fly over opp. Keshav Puram Police Station.	1	Keshav puram	One person named Roshan caught red Handed by police.

**SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA** Mr Speaker, Sir through you I would like to ask the hon Minister what will be the situation in the country when the incidence of theft of telephone cables and P C M equipments has gone upto such an extent in Delhi, which is the capital of the country It has been stated in the reply given to my question that the Government has suffered a loss of Rs 20 lakhs during 1991-92 The incidents of theft will not be contained merely by apprehending the cable and P C M equipment thieves and handing them over to Police Will Government take any concrete steps against them?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT)** Mr Speaker Sir It is true that there has been an increase in the incidents of such thefts as we have already conceded in our reply For the last two three months when these elements realised that copper and aluminium were available in these cables, they started stealing these by adopting two methods Firstly the telephone cables which get exposed at the time of digging manholes or drainage are removed and this Department is unable to keep track of it as it has no liaison with the concerned Department We have requested Delhi Administration that it would be the responsibility of the Drainage Department, M C D or the Department under which a contractor works or does any digging work If any cable is stolen the concerned Department will have to pay for it This is the action which we have taken in this regard

Secondly the hon Member has said about the situation prevailing in Delhi in regard to thefts As far as the incidents of thefts are concerned they can occur at any place It makes little difference whether it happens in Delhi and other places In my opinion the source of information about the routes of cables may have been leaked from the concerned Department Moreover, the police has also shown some laxity We have written strong letter to both the Departments We have taken the erring officials and employees of the Department to task, I am quite

hopeful that we would be able to contain the incidents of thefts after taking these measures strictly

**SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA** Mr Speaker, Sir, inspite of taking stringent measures there have been many incidents of thefts in 1991-92 also There have also been incidents of thefts in March 1992 Would the hon Minister concede that the steps being taken are not adequate at all and the officials of M T N L are involved in these cases of thefts? Is he going to take any steps to bring these employees to book?

**SHRI RAJESH PILOT** Mr Speaker, Sir It is true that the steps taken in this regard have not proved to be much effective That is why the incidents of thefts have increased The incidents of thefts would have been minimum had the effective steps were taken Therefore, we have tried to improve the prevailing set up We have taken stern action against those officials who are found guilty in two-three cases We are also taking stringent measures which would enable us to create such an atmosphere in and outside the Department that culprits would not be spared It has been conveyed by the Department

**SHRIRAMKRISHNA KUSHMARIA** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon Minister has conceded that the Government has suffered a loss of Rs 20 lakhs and the employees are involved in it The incidents of theft are on the increase because of collusion between the employees and the thieves Thefts are being committed throughout the country I would like to ask the hon Minister whether C I D inquiry would be conducted against those officials involved in so it as to expose them and to check the incidents of thefts in future The action which has taken

**MR SPEAKER** Please come to the question What is the nature of stringent action being taken? Would you like to order an inquiry immediately?

**SHRI RAJESH PILOT** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have understood the intention of the

hon. Member. I, myself, have promised the hon. Members to take an immediate and stringent action in this regard. As far as a C.I.D. inquiry is concerned, we have handed over all the cases of the Departments to the C.B.I. after writing a letter to them for the purpose of checking, the revenue leakage in the Department itself. They have been asked to inform the Government if they find any lapse in any Department or Section. For that purpose, we are also paying to the C.B.I. so that revenue leakage may be checked. We have asked the CBI even before the hon. Member asked for it and. They have apprehended persons involved in some cases also. So there is improvement definitely.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM': Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that maximum number of thefts of telephone cables have occurred in East Delhi. I have got registered 60 cases during the last 11 months.

MR. SPEAKER: What type of constituency is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM': Sir, hon. Lt. Governor says that there is shortage of police force in Delhi. There is also shortage of constables. I would like to know the strength of police force in the capital. One-third of the total population resides in East Delhi. There, the number of thefts are maximum. If the strength of Police Force is less, how long you will take to increase the strength, so that cases of thefts could be reduced?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact. As the hon. Member has said that the incidents of theft were less during the tenure of former representative. Now the number has increased. If Mr. Madan Lal Khurana and Mr. Prem help in this regard, it will yield more results.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Earlier it was the constituency of Mr. Bhagat. He is your friend.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can guarantee you that Members have nothing to do with it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please confirm that the thefts have reduced now since he is there.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my purpose is to take the help of the representatives, for the purpose of reducing the number of cases of thefts. But you will have to guide us in this regard.

[English]

Allotment of Doordarshan Programmes

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\*556. SHRI SHANKERSINH  
VAGHELA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the producers who failed to deliver the programmes allotted by the Doordarshan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same producers have been given new assignments;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of advance paid by the Doordarshan to each one of them; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.