

*Telephone Companies***Payment of Dues** 162

In addition, two power stations namely, Badarpur TPS, Delhi, of the Government of India and Balco Captive Power Plant, MP, are being operated and managed by NTPC.

(b) to (d) All NTPC Stations have achieved the generation targets of 1998-99 set by the CEA. However, NTPC is not able to generate its full potential from the Power Stations located in the Eastern Region because of lack of demand in the region, sub-transmission constraints and lack of evacuation facilities to other regions.

Government is taking steps to maximise export of surplus power from the Eastern Region to other regions by suitably enhancing the inter-regional and intra-regional transmission capacity.

1712. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount to be paid by each of the six companies licensed to operate basic telephone services;

(b) whether the Government have directed them to pay 20% of the outstanding licence fee by February 15, 1999 and to securities the remaining outstanding amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to realise the dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURAKAYASTHA): (a) The total licence fee alongwith interest upto 31.1.99 to be paid by the six Licencees is as follows:

(i) M/s. Bharati Telenet	Rs. 20.50 Crores.
(ii) M/s. Tata	Rs. 128.13 Crores
(iii) M/s. Essar	Rs. 141.02 Crores
(iv) M/s. Hughes Ispat	Rs. 422.33 Crores.
(v) M/s. Reliance	Rs. 103.70 Crores, and
(vi) M/s. Telelink	Rs. 128.36 Crores which has fallen due on 4.3.99.

(b) and (c) letters have been issued to the Operators on 25.1.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest thereon, immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, they have been asked to make payment of atleast 20% or more of the total amount due by 15.2.99. The operators have further been called upon to enhance the FBG to cover the balance amount payable after deducting the amount paid. This date has further been extended to 28.2.99.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Interest on Security Deposit

1713. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone consumers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total earnings on account of security deposit;

(c) the earnings from the interest on amount deposited as security; and

(d) the mode of the use of this amount by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total number of telephone consumers i.e. Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) as on 31.01.1999 are 19,821,033. State-wise details given in Statement enclosed.