

Parliament for the Ministry of Communications also considered the proposal and recommended pulse-metering of one call unit for 5 minutes' duration. Accordingly, it has been decided that the local calls in all systems of more than 30,000 lines capacity will be metered @ one call unit for 5 minutes duration. Presently, it is technically feasible to introduce this arrangement only in electronic exchanges.

The need for introducing time limit for local calls has been felt to decongest the network so that more calls can get completed. Though most of the subscribers are known to be restricting their calls to less than 3 minutes or so, there are commercial subscribers who have FAX machines and computers that use the local lines for very long duration to transfer data. The Government feels justified to charge such subscribers more than the normal subscribers who do not use the line for long durations. It is expected that in general, subscribers will limit their calls to 5 minutes duration that is being prescribed and this will result in better call completion and improving the efficiency of the network.

All the above schemes require considerable technical preparations to be made before implementation. It is proposed that the same will be implemented by each Telecom. Circle in the country as and when they complete the technical arrangement, and in any case, not later than 31.8.92.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): I would like to raise my personal problem in the presence of the hon. Minister. Sir, for the period of five months from 11th November 1991 to April, 1992 I have received a telephone bill of Rs. 2,22,000/- particularly in the circumstances when my telephone is always locked and I use the telephone

strangely. Even then I have been billed for 2,22,000/-.

THE STATE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas speaks so much in the Parliament, so it can be imaged how much he might be speaking on the telephone. That is why the time has been reduced to five minutes, otherwise the metre keeps running on.

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order, please?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, yesterday you remember, Achariaji and I had called on you and we wanted a discussion on awarding contract to ABB for purchase of electric locomotives. (*Interruptions*). Now, the honourable Shri Kumaramangalamji said that immediately after the Minister's reply on the discussion of the Minorities Commission Bill today, thus discussion under Rule 193 will be brought. Sir, you are aware that in the List of Business paper several other Bills have been included prior to its discussion and I fear very much whether the discussion will at all be held.

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly the point I have been making.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me. Whenever we have the matters on the Agenda, they are supposed to be very important and you don't deal with them, and the matters which are not on the Agenda we discuss here. You know it very well. What do we do them?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: It appears the Government is very  
sure to scuttle it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Not that.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: It is postponed for three times.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the Minister  
came to me two or three times and asked for  
it.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: What is the use, Sir? But it is not  
being discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly what all  
the Members should...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):  
Sometime should be fixed for this discussion.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly either  
you go by the guidance given by the Presiding  
Officer or you yourself decide.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: We accepted your suggestion on  
that day when the leaders of the parties were  
called to your room. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):  
It was decided in your room. It should be  
taken up today. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is really  
unnecessary. You wanted the discussion. It  
was fixed for discussion; it has been on the  
agenda for three days for discussion, but we  
have been discussing matters which are not  
on the agenda.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: When is it going to be discussed?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up  
matters under rule 377. Shri Birbal.

12.51 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for financial Assistance to  
the Government of Rajasthan  
for providing relief to the Drought  
Prone Areas.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr.  
Speaker, most of the districts in Rajasthan,  
especially in dry farming areas of  
Ganganagar, Bikanar, Chura, Jaisalmar and  
Barmer in Western Rajasthan are faced  
with an emergent problem of acute shortage  
of fodder for cattle and drinking water in  
villages due to lack of rain this year is being  
available. At present fodder for the cattle at  
very high prices and that too in inadequate  
quantity. The purchasing power of the  
villagers is also woefully poor. There are no  
avenues of employment of available in  
villages. The problem of drinking water has  
also arisen in rural areas.

The Government has always been  
providing relief to those regions of Rajasthan  
which are deficient in rain. I, therefore, urge  
the Government India to take timely action  
to supply fodder for the animals and drinking  
water and provide immediate employment  
for the present and take proper preventive  
measures for the future also.