

[Sh. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed]

suspension of the citizens' right to life and liberty under Article 21 when any Proclamation of Emergency is made for Punjab.

The part of the Constitution (Fifty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1988 which dealt with emergency powers has been the subject of criticism from various quarters because they are stringent in character and particularly because of power to deprive a citizen of his right to life and liberty. The Government considers that there is no need to retain such drastic powers. Sir, I may also mention that this provision has never been invoked so far. It is therefore proposed to repeal this part of the Act as well.

The present Bill seeks to repeal the Constitution (Fifty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1988. I now request the august House to approve the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED:  
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.44 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CONSTITUTION OF AN EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF THE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) was set up in April, 1984 and formally

registered as an autonomous society in August, 1984 Primarily for developing a Digital Main Automatic Exchange (MAX) of 16,000 lines capacity which was later upgraded to 40,000 lines by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT). This exchange was to be developed for commercial production within 36 months commencing from August, 1984 and within a budget of Rs. 36 crores.

This project was considered crucial to enable the DOT to phase out electro-mechanical exchanges and to induct modern electronic switching systems; primarily for providing efficient telephone services and subsequently for developing Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) facilities. Since the C-DOT was envisaged as an autonomous society, it was provided with requisite funds on a cost sharing basis by the Department of Electronics and the Department of Telecommunications.

More than 5 years have passed since C-DOT started the project, but a commercially produceable MAX has not yet gone into manufacture. The final designs even for a 500 Line Exchange are yet to be frozen and now it is apparently planned to be passed on to the manufacturers by April 1990 only.

It is most vital that this indigenous effort should be speeded up to strengthen our technological muscle but at the same time it is necessary for the Government to know as to where we stand in meeting the needs of a viable Communication System for the nineties and within what time frame the MAX will be developed to sustain this communication network.

The Government is reviewing the Communications policy and the structures built up to achieve the ends of this policy like the Telecom Commissions, C-DOT, etc. In the first instance it has been decided to constitute the following committee of experts to evaluate the on-going schemes and the future progress of the C-DOT project. The terms of reference of the High Level Committee will be as under:—

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| <p>(i) To ascertain by when C-DOT will develop a MAX as per the technical specifications laid down by DOT in January, 1985 in consultation with C-DOT.</p> <p>(ii) To assess and evaluate the steps taken by C-DOT for developing a MAX of traffic handling capacity and lines capacity as decided by the DOT.</p> <p>(iii) To assess and evaluate steps taken by C-DOT for development of Digital Trunk Exchanges including Computerised Manual Trunk Exchanges as decided by the Telecom Commission in 1989.</p> <p>(iv) To assess and evaluate the role and performance of external agencies in India and abroad to whom C-DOT has entrusted certain crucial and strategic jobs like the development and improvement of software and software tools.</p> <p>(v) To assess and evaluate the technological adequacy of the designs employed in the C-DOT prototypes in relation to the state of the art of the present technology.</p> <p>(vi) To assess and evaluate the work on development of C-DOT's two by-products, i.e. EPABX and RAX and to suggest measures for improving the performance of companies making these products which are reportedly operating at</p> | <p>very low capacities.</p> <p>(vii) To assess and evaluate the purchase and import procedures of C-DOT and the actual purchases and imports undertaken consequently.</p> <p>(viii) To assess the reported brain drain from C-DOT and to suggest measures including possible incentives for retaining the existing researchers.</p> <p>(ix) To suggest a strategy for speeding up indigenous development of MAX and other public switching systems for Data, Facsimile and Video transmission.</p> <p>(x) To suggest a plan for meeting the demand for such exchanges which will thereby fulfill the growing demands for telephone connections and telematic services from the public.</p> <p>(xi) To suggest a technology-based plan for redeploying several thousands of employees of Indian Telephone Industries at Rae Bareilly and Bangalore Units who are fast becoming redundant as a result of the phasing out of the production of electro-mechanical exchanges and in the light of delays in the availability of C-DOT MAX for commercial production.</p> |
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- The committee will comprise the following members:—

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| <p>1) <i>Mr. K.P.P. Nambiar</i>, former Secretary to Government of India in the Department of Electronics and former Chairman of the Steering Committee of C-DOT.</p> <p>2) <i>Mr. V.M. Sundaram</i>, former Member (Technology) of the Telecom Board</p> <p>3) <i>Mr. G.B. Meemamsi</i>, Member (Technology) Telecom Commission, and Executive Director C-DOT, New Delhi.</p> <p>4) <i>Mr. D.R. Mahajan</i>, Director, C-DOT/New Delhi.</p> | <p>...Chairman</p> <p>.....Member</p> <p>.....Member</p> <p>.....Member</p> |
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- 5) *Mr. R.P. Shenoy*, (Distinguished Scientist) Aeronautical Development Establishment/Bangalore. ....Member
- 6) *Mr. Y. Muthuswamy*, General Manager (Production), DOT/New Delhi. ....Member
- 7) *Mr. T.H. Choudhary*, former Managing Director, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited,/Secunderabad. ....Member
- 8) *Mr. R.K. Singh*, Director (Components), Department of Electronics, Lok Nayak Bhavan/New Delhi. ....Member
- 9) *Mr. M.S. Jayasimha*, Adviser, ITI/Bangalore. ....Member
- 10) *Dr. Sira G. Rao*, Director of Research, ITI/Bangalore. ....Member
- 11) *Dr. Chalapati Rao Kasarbada*, Director, Electronics Research and Development Centre (D.O.E.)/Trivandrum. ....Member
- 12) *Mr. R.K. Bhatia*, Deputy General Manager, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam and formerly Deputy Director (Switching), Telecom Research Centre, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd./New Delhi. ....Member
- 13) *Mr. M.A. Ramaswamy*, General Manager (Switching) DOT/New Delhi. ....Member  
Secretary

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The Committee may seek the help of any other personnel or agencies in the discharge of its assignment. *The report of the committee is to be submitted by the 28th of February, 1990.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Constitution Amendment Bill is now before the House for consideration. As the Bill has been introduced only a little while ago, Members may give notices for amendments by 1330 hours.

[Translation]

Since the business of the House listed for the day is almost over, I think that all of you agree that the House is adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past thirteen of the Clock.

12.50 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past thirteen of the Clock*

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13.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 20 of the Agenda.