

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

3. Since at present, the external tele-communications of the country are operated upon by Overseas Communication Service as a Department of the Government of India, the Company will be given a licence, under the Indian Telegraph Act for carrying on its business, with suitable conditions, on the pattern of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam. These would ensure that the operations remain under the overall control of the Government in emergency conditions and also that the regulatory powers in the interest of public safety now available to the Government remain intact.

4. By the end of Financial Year 1985-86, the approximate value of the assets of Overseas Communication Services will be Rs. 120 crores. Out of this, Rs. 60 crores will be treated as equity and the balances as loan to the new Company viz Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited.

5. The proposed Vote on Account for 1986-87 contains a provision of Rs. 6 crores for loan under Demand No. 13—Ministry of Communications (Capital Section) and Rs. 60.25 lakhs under Demand No. 14—Overseas Communications Service. The requirement of Rs. 6 crores is to meet the day-to-day working capital needs of the company for the initial months till they start generating their own revenues. This will form a part of the total working capital loan of Rs. 15 crores to be provided to the Company during the year 1986-87.

6. Vote on Account for Rs. 60.25 lakhs has been sought under Demand No. 14 of Overseas Communications Services for payment of salaries etc. to the employees of the Organisation for the month of March, 1986, payable on 1st April, 1986, from which date the conversion is to take place.

12.12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : GRANT OF  
CERTAIN CONCESSIONS TO  
PENSIONERS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC  
GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI  
P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, on the intro-

duction of the Liberalised Pension Rules, 1950, the Government servants, who were in permanent pensionable service on September 30, 1938, were allowed the following options :

- (a) coming on the new pension schemes *i.e.* to receive pension at 30/80 of emoluments plus death-cum-retirement gratuity; or
- (b) continuing under the rules in force on the 16th April, 1950 *i.e.* to receive pension at 30/60 of the emoluments; or
- (c) drawing pension under the rules in force on the 16th April, 1950 reduced by the Pension equivalent of the gratuity admissible under the new scheme and receiving in lieu of this reduction the death-cum-retirement gratuity as provided under this scheme.

2. In brief, the employees who chose (c) above, received the pension @ 30/60 (*i.e.* 50% of the emoluments) subject to having rendered the requisite qualifying service plus the death-cum-retirement gratuity, which was introduced for the first time under the Liberalised Pension Rules, 1950 with effect from 17 April 1950. They were however to receive pension reduced by the pensionary equivalent of the gratuity. This was a life-time commitment.

On the introduction of slab formula for computation of pension with effect from 1st April, 1979, the pension admissible to the employees has been increased for the first slab of Rs. 1000 to 50%, for the next slab of Rs. 500 to 45% and to 40% thereafter of the emoluments in addition to the facility of death-cum-retirement gratuity. The pre-1938 entrants who were low paid and are now very old—have been representing for discontinuance of the reduction in their pension by pensionary equivalent of the gratuity.

3. The Government have considered the matter sympathetically. I am glad to inform the House that the Government have now decided that the reduction of pension by the pensionary equivalent of the gratuity in such cases may be discontinued from the month of March, 1986 payable in April 1986 purely

as an ex-gratia measure to provide them much-needed relief. These pensioners would hereafter be entitled to full pension.

The affected pensioners will also be entitled to receive dearness relief on the full pension as admissible under the rules.

4. The Government have further decided that the past cases otherwise settled shall not be reopened. Recovery of pensionary equivalent of Gratuity where such a payment had been made consequent to revision of pension w.e.f. 1-4-1979, shall also be stopped, from the month of March, 1986 payable in April, 1987.

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION  
OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM  
THE OFFICES OF MINISTER  
OF STATE IN THE DEPART-  
MENT OF RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg) : Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity for personal explanation so that my colleagues in the House, as well as my constituents and my countrymen at large, may know the correct facts. The matter is both serious and painful. It is serious because it affects the very sovereignty and integrity of our Motherland. It is painful because I have been mentioned in the charge-sheet relating to Ram Sarup's episode. The charge-sheet refers to me at two places. However, I am neither an accused nor a witness. In a way, this position itself establishes that there is nothing improper against me.

I understand that in the charge-sheet filed by the Special Police against Ram Sarup and other, my name was mentioned, though I was not an accused or a witness. Immediately I brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that in accordance with the best traditions of Parliamentary Democracy, I should tender my resignation as a State Minister of Central Government. The Prime Minister understood my feelings and accepted my resignation.

Sir, everybody in this House and outside knows of my journalistic careers, spreading

over thirty five years. This hazardous profession gave me opportunities to visit over hundred countries with different political persuasions—sometimes with eminent leaders like late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, late Dr. Rajendar Prasad, late Dr. Radhakrishnan, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and others; many times to World Olympics and Asian Games. I visited Taiwan also as a journalist and not as a Member of Parliament, along with other Indian journalists on the invitation of the Government of Taiwan, channelised through Ram Sarup, with whom I had neither any contacts before or thereafter. I am not associated with any of his society or Group or Committee or any such activities.

Sir, it is the duty of a Journalist to find facts and information and to report them to his newspaper for the benefit of the people of the country. It is a matter of considerable regret that Taiwan visit of mine, has been used to malign me as somebody associated with Ram Sarup. Even castle of sand would rest on a stronger footing than an accusation like this.

It is with some pride that I say before this august House, that all through my life, I have acted with honour and dignity, upholding the highest principles in private and public life. I had been closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi reporting his prayer speeches. Nothing would be more absurd than ever to imagine that I would even let down the country. I have never failed to uphold the honour and dignity of this House and of my country. I place my explanation before this august House to enable my colleagues to judge for themselves. Thank you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) :  
Sir, are we to be mute spectators ?

MR. SPEAKER : No. We have to do something about it. I really sympathise...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Govern-  
ment must come forward with a statement  
on its own.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Sir,  
you promised that you will allow a discussion  
on this.