

will continue as a normal fare increase. In addition, fares for this class will be further raised by 10 per cent.

#### Reservation Fares

It is also proposed to revise the reservation fees which have remained unaltered for the last 7 years. The reservation fee for Air-conditioned First Class will be Rs. 12.00, for A.C. Sleeper Class and First Class Rs. 6.00, for A.C. Chair and Second Sleeper Rs. 5.00, and for Second Class Rs. 2.00.

These measures taken together are expected to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 358 crores in 1988-89.

#### Parcel and Luggage Rates

Parcel and luggage rates are to be increased by 10 per cent, yielding in 1988-89, an additional Rs. 23 crores.

Taking into account the revenue accruing from all these proposals, and after having paid the full dividend of Rs. 736 crores to the General Exchequer, the year 1988-89 is expected to close with a surplus of Rs. 28 crores.

#### Conclusion

Sir, before concluding, I would once again like to reiterate our sense of gratitude to the Honourable Members of the House for the understanding and goodwill extended to us. This has emboldened us to work, keeping the long-term interest of the Railways constantly in mind. The Indian Railways is a vast organisation, reaching distant corners of the country. Our success or failure does, therefore, have an impact that goes beyond the Railway network. The Prime Minister has charged us with the responsibility of effecting a change—towards professional management, towards a new work ethos, towards modernisation. We are indebted to him for the impetus he has provided, and, the climate in which he has allowed us to function. We feel a deep sense of commitment, a feeling of pride in the organisation, an *esprit de corps*. I would like to express my appreciation once again,

to all railwaymen, to whom credit goes in large measure, for whatever has been achieved.

Undoubtedly, we do have problems facing us, but one can be either shaped and moulded by problems, or challenged and motivated by them. We have felt motivated; we have accepted the challenge. I would like to assure the House, that it will be our earnest endeavour to perform our task in total harmony with the larger objective of building a strong and self-reliant nation.

Sir, with these words, I now commended the Railway Budget, 1988-89, to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for Lunch till 2.00 p.m.

13.00 hours

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the clock*

14.03 hours.

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev.

#### STATEMENT RE: POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION RATES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Vasant Sathe, Hon. Minister for Energy and Communications, I am making the following statement :

The House is aware that there are large demands for expansion and upgradation of

telephone services in the country. We are also engaged in the task of correcting the imbalance that exists in the provision of telecommunication infrastructure between urban and rural areas for which we have to increase the coverage of the rural section. Development in telecommunication technology has also necessitated replacing our old exchanges with electronic telephone exchanges. The transmission media are also being modernised. Quality of service is sought to be improved by modernising the network.

It is necessary to raise adequate financial resources for this programme. For this purpose, the Government has reluctantly decided to revise some of the telecommunication charges.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Why has he come now with this proposal ? These things should come in the Budget. We are all spoiling the sanctity of the Budget. Let there be an announcement like that then. Why this piecemeal thing ? Please don't allow this. Even the Speaker had observed that on the eve of the Budget... (*Interruptions*)... Why all these charges have been raised now ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already the Speaker has admitted it. I cannot stop it now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let him wait till the 29th February.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already the Speaker has admitted it, I cannot stop it now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Don't allow the sanctity of the Budget to be violated when you are presiding over the House. At the present moment I am not objecting to the revision of charges; but I am objecting to the procedure being violated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already the Speaker has accepted the notice for this Statement. Now I cannot deny it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let him wait till 29th February when the entire Budget will come. What is wrong is coming in piecemeal Sir. This is a very unhappy procedure.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : As per rules we are entitled to coming out with the Statement.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : How many more Ministers have given you the notice ? At least make an observation that it is against the propriety of the House... (*Interruptions*)... Please make an observation at least. A healthy Parliamentary practice must be there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not the first time this is going on.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In revising the charges, care has been taken to see that weaker sections and people in rural areas are not affected adversely. To spare these under-privileged from extra burden, rentals of telephones in the telephone exchange systems of less than 100 lines, Public Telephone charges in respect of public telephones situated in rural areas and charges for telegrams have been retained at the present level. There will also be no increase in the trunk call charges for distance upto 50 kms. Tariff for STD calls made during late hours of the night will be reduced to 25% of the normal tariff; this reduction will be notified in the near future separately.

The revision is basically confined to rentals of larger measured rate exchange systems; fees per call unit beyond the free call limit; charges for trunk calls and charges for local and STD calls put through the public telephone in measured rate exchanges.

The revised tariff is expected to yield an additional revenue of about Rs. 500 crores in full year. This amount will be used to finance the expansion, upgradation and improvement in the telecommunication services.

The Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951, will be suitably amended to bring into force

the above changes under the authority vested in the Central Government under Section 7 of the Indian Telegraphs Act, 1885. The relevant Notification in the official Gazette will be placed on the Table of the House in due course. I am laying a Statement on the Table of the House, giving the existing and proposed new tariffs. The revision will come into effect from 1st April, 1988.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already he has expressed *(Interruptions)*. Nothing will go on record ..

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may continue.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I would like to point out to Section 7 of the Indian Telegraphs Act which gives the inherent power to the Department to declare the tariffs. Last year there were objections. That is why we have come before the House. We are announcing this before the House. It will come into effect from 1st April. Hon. Members can debate; they can ask the Speaker to have a discussion and it will be implemented from 1st April. The Member is misleading the House. I have an inherent right to do it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Sir, I rise on a point of order if you allow him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only what he spoke first will go on record. All the interventions will not go on record.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I will now speak to you on the Postal Services of the country. As the Hon'ble Members are, no doubt, aware the Department of Posts has a wide network of about 1,45,000 Post Offices through the length and breadth of the country of which 1,27,000 are located in rural and remote areas. The Department proposes to open about 3,000 more Post

Offices in each of the remaining two years of the current Plan, so that the Seventh Plan target of opening 6,000 Post Offices can be fulfilled.

In keeping with the pressing demand from the Hon'ble Members and also the public at large, the Government desires to undertake a massive programme of providing postal facilities in each one of the remaining 74,000 Panchayat Villages in the next two years. To achieve this highly desirable objective, the Government is of the considered view that raising of additional resources is a condition precedent. We have, therefore, decided to partially meet the requirement of additional resources by a small increase in the rates of some of the Postal Services.

I now propose that the present rate of Money Order commission may be increased marginally by another 10 paise for every Rs. 10 or part thereof. This will imply that as against the rate of 30 paise for every Rs. 10/- or part thereof on money orders upto the value of Rs 50/- the revised rate of commission would be 40 paise. Similarly, for Money Orders above the value of Rs. 50/-, as against the present rate of 40 paise for every Rs 10/- or part thereof, the revised rate would be 50 paise. I also propose that the minimum money order commission would be 50 paise. Thus, for a person who may be sending a money order for Rs. 50/- every month to his kith and kin in the villages the additional monthly burden would be only 50 paise because as against the present money order commission of Rs. 1.50 paise, he will have to pay Rs. 2/-. Similarly, for a person who may be sending a monthly money order of Rs. 100/-, the additional burden would be only Re. 1 per month because as against Rs. 4/- now being paid by him as commission, he would have to pay Rs. 5/-. It is also proposed to revise the registration charges from the existing rate of Rs. 4.50 paise to a round figure of Rs. 5/- In the case of Inland letters, as against the present tariff rate of 35 paise, the Department is incurring an expenditure of 89 paise on its handling. The cost of printing and stationery of the inland letter is itself of the order of 15 paise or so. Having regard to this, it is proposed to charge 15 paise per inland letter as a stationery charge, on the analogy of the

\*\*Not recorded.

already existing stationery charge on embossed envelopes. This will imply that whereas departmentally printed inland letters would cost 50 paise, in case privately printed inland letters are used, the tariff would continue to be 35 paise. I also propose to increase the existing stationery charge of 10 paise on each embossed envelope to 15 paise. These proposals are expected to generate an additional revenue of about Rs. 49 crores in a full year and are proposed to be given effect to from 1.4 1988.

I may also add that the Department of Posts is continuing its efforts to improve its efficiency and to reduce expenditure wherever possible. A new service called "Speed Post" was started last year, has picked up considerably even in the face of stiff competition

from private couriers. It is proposed to mount a campaign to expand and improve this service further. There is also a proposal to start an Electronic Mail Service from the middle of April this year which will enable the Department to earn additional revenue. Proposals are also on hand for mechanisation of some of the Postal operations, not only to improve efficiency but also to make the services more cost effective. At the same time, certain incentive schemes are also being introduced to reward the staff who are able to increase productivity. These steps are expected to improve the working of the Department as a whole. I do hope Hon'ble Members will support this small increase in the tariff rates, having regard to the overall objective of better service to our people specially in the uncovered rural areas.

*Statement Showing the Revision of Telecommunication Tariffs*

Sl. No.	Item	Existing tariff.	Proposed tariff.
1	2	3	4
1.	Measured Rate System :	(Bi-monthly rental)	(Bi-monthly rental)
1.1	Exchange Systems of less than 100 lines.	125	125
1.2	Exchange Systems of 100 lines and above but below 1000 lines.	125 -	140
1.3	Exchange Systems of 1000 lines and above but below 10,000 lines.	125	160
1.4	Exchange Systems of 10,000 lines and above but below 30,000 lines.	150	200
1.5	Exchange Systems of 30,000 lines and above but below 1 lakh lines.	175	250
1.6	Exchange Systems of 1 lakh lines and above but below 3 lakh lines	200	300
1.7	Exchange Systems of 3 lakh lines and above.	200	330
2.	Fees per call unit for calls in a bi-monthly cycle :		
2.1	Upto 275 Calls	Free	Free
2.2	From 276 calls to 2000 calls	60 paise	80 Paise.
2.3	From 2001 Calls to 5000 calls to	80 paise	Rs. 1/-
2.4	In excess of 5000 calls	80 paise	Rs. 1.25

1	2	3	4
3.	Charges for Trunk Calls (Radial distance between any two exchanges or between any two long-distance charging centres).		
3.1	Upto 20 Kms	Rs.2/-	Rs.2/-
3.2	Exceeding 20 Kms but not exceeding 50 Kms.	Rs.4/-	Rs.4/-
3.3	Exceeding 50 Kms. but not exceeding 100 Kms.	Rs.6/-	Rs.8/-
3.4	Exceeding 100 Kms. but not exceeding 200 Kms.	Rs. 12/-	Rs.16/-
3.5	Exceeding 200 Kms. but not exceeding 500 Kms.	Rs.18/-	Rs.27/-
3.6	Exceeding 500 Kms. but not exceeding 1030 Kms.	Rs. 30/-	Rs.36/-
3.7	Exceeding 1000 Kms.	Rs. 36/-	Rs.45/-
4.	Charges for the use of Public Telephones :		
4.1	PTS connected to measured rate exchanges	50 Paise	Re.1/-
4.2	S. T. D PTs	60 Paise per unit	Re.1/- per unit

Estimated additional revenue in a year : 500 crores (including M-T. N. L.)

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA**  
(Bankura) : This is an attack on the people of our country. There is a proposal for additional demand of Rs. 500 crores. We urge that there should be a discussion on this.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : You give notice.

**SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North)** : Earlier it was railway budget, now postal budget ; any other budget before the general budget ?

(Interruptions)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : He has already explained. Whenever it comes, you can discuss.

(Interruptions)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Please order.

14. 16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Strike by Lawyers in Delhi

[English]

**SHRI ANANDA PATHAK**  
(Darjeeling) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of the continued strike by lawyers in Delhi and steps taken by the Government to settle the matter."

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS**  
(S BUTA SINGH) : The lawyers of Tis Hazari Courts went on strike following the arrest of one Shri Rajesh Kumar on 15th January, 1988 and his subsequent handcuffing at the time of his production before the Magistrate on 16.1.1988. Shri Rajesh Kumar was apprehended in St. Stephan's