

and English versions.) [Placed in Library See No. LT 2068/92]

13.39 hrs

PETITIONS

(4) A copy of the Block Accounts (including Capital Statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts, Railways for the year 1990-91 (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library See No LT2069/92]

(I) Inclusion of Khatve Community of Bihar in the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 Pertaining to the State of Bihar

[Translation]

13.38 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return here with the Finance Bill, 1992, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th May, 1992 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

13.38 1/2 hrs

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF
THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI PROBEN DEKA (Mangaldoi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee on absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on the 5th May, 1992.

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardage): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Kameshwar Chaupal, 8, Virchand Patel Marg, Patna (Bihar) regarding the inclusion of the Khatve Community of Bihar in the Schedule of Constitutional (Scheduled Castes) order 1950 pertaining to Bihar State.

(II) Rehabilitation of Migrants from Bangladesh now residing in Begali Colony, Hastinapur, Merrut, Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Maralendu Malik and other migrants from Bangladesh, now residents of Begali Colony, Hastinapur, District, Merrut, Uttar Pradesh, regarding their rehabilitation.

13.40 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Group Dialling facility in Rural Areas

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILLAI): Sir, I wish to keep the House informed of two important measures that the Government is taking relating to

provisions of Group Dialling Facility in rural areas and consequential rationalisation of tariff for local calls and Trunk calls (both manual and subscriber dialled).

2. Members are aware that Government have taken steps to accelerate provisions of telecommunications facility in the rural areas. The number of exchanges in rural areas today stands at more than 15,000 against about 8,000 in the year 1982. The programme of the Government to connect all the Gram Panchayats numbering approximately 2,20,000 by 31st March, 1995 is also likely to create more demand for telecommunications facility in the rural areas.

3. These developments have resulted in a consequential demand from the rural community for providing them group dialling facility. The rural subscribers also started demanding STD service. Provisions of STD in all rural exchanges will require implementation over a period of time. As a first step, the Government have decided to introduce group-dialling facility in the rural areas. This also calls for rationalisation of charging methods for calls within the group dialling areas as also the long distance area.

4. One of the technical requirements for linking all the exchanges in the country to the National STD is the concept of short distance charging areas (SDCA) which gives a unique identity for numbering and charging with reference to other short distance charging areas. This formation of SDCA will enable rapid expansion of STD to rural areas.

5. The present charging plan for determining call charges (both for manual and subscriber dialled) requires the measurement of actual distance from each exchange to a large number of telephone exchange located in a large area. This not only places technical constraints in terms of extending STD to rural subscribers but also

becomes difficult to administer in view of the enormous increase in the telecom network and a large number of telephone exchanges which are getting commissioned every year.

6 It is, therefore, proposed that for measurement of distances the country is divided into 321 Long Distance.

Charging Areas (LDCA) which are co-terminus with then Secondary Switching Areas that from the Administrative Unit:

(i) The L.D.C.As. cover generally one or two Revenue Districts.

(ii) Each LDCA is again divided into a number of short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA) generally covering one or more Tehsils as the case may be. The area of each Short Distance Charging Area is arranged to be between 500 to 2,000 Square kilometres. With some exceptions especially in unpopulated areas of the North East, there will be a total of 2,570 SDCAs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a technical subject and I would like to elaborate so that the hon. Members could understand.

Revised Charging Plan

7. At present, the rural subscribers have to mainly depend upon the manual trunk service for talking to neighbouring exchanges. They have also to pay trunk call charges for talking to even the neighbouring exchange which increase with distance and are costlier. With the provision of group-dialling facility, it shall now become possible for them to directly dial subscribers in the same SDCA without going through the operator. The charges for direct dialling facility within the SDCA shall also be concessional at the rate of one call unit of every 3 minutes (Rs.1/-) irrespective of the distance whether it is in to 20 Kilometers slab or more.

[Sh. Rajaesh Pilot]

7.2 Although this proposal will entail substantial loss to the Department, it is expected that with increase in telecommunications network, the same would be compensated in future. The manual trunk call charges however are proposed to be revised from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 5/- for one call unit of 3 minutes duration for the distance slab of 0-20 kilometers which will apply for calls uniformly within or outside SDCA.

8. In respect of calls made beyond the short distance charging area, a particular exchange around the centre of the area, would be identified as the Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC) for each SDCA and similarly a Long Distance Charging Centre (LDCC) for each LDCA. The charges for calls made beyond the SDCA would be governed as per the distance measured:

- (a) between SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre) to SDCC in respect of SDCAs located in the same or adjacent LDCA.
- (b) between LDCC (Long Distance Charging Centre) to LDCC in all other cases.

9. The calls within the same SDCA will be available on a level other than level 'O' (which is the code for National Subscriber Dialling) so that the STD barred subscribers will be able to make these direct dialled calls.

10. *Calls to Peripheral Towns:*

Along with revised charging plan it is also proposed to introduce a scheme by which subscribers located in two telephone systems which are adjacent to each other and have a common border are able to directly dial their calls at low tariff. This will be especially beneficial to small satellite towns around the periphery of big towns and it is

expected that the low tariff will enable the dispersal of population of big towns to the adjoining small places. These calls irrespective of distance will also be metered at one call unit for every 3 minutes. The STD barred subscribers will also be able to use this service.

Especially for Gurgaon, Sir, Shri Chandra Shekharji will be happy to know that it will be now a direct local call; the rate will be, of course, three minutes, but it won't be STD from Gurgaon to Delhi. Similarly, Sir, all the peripheral towns around the big towns will have a dialling system instead of STD to these places. Like this, Faridabad and Gaziabad will also be put on the same lines.

SHRISRIKANTAJENA (Cuttack): What about Orrissa.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is all over the country. I just gave an example of Delhi and around— Shri Chandra Sherkharji was smiling, so I gave this example. Otherwise, all over the country the same system is followed.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Anything for the islands? *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: *Multi-metering of local calls:* The need for introduction of pulsed metering even for local calls especially in large telephone systems has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time. Such a system exists in at least 30 countries in the world. Members may recall the discussions that have taken place in both the House during the Question Hour on this proposal. A large number of representations have also been received from Members, public, Subscriber's Associations and Chamber of Commerce etc. The Consultative Committee of

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.