

विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक संबंधी दोनों सभाओं की संयुक्त समिति के समक्ष दिये गये साक्ष्य के अभिलेख (खण्ड 1 और 11) की एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : MANUFACTURE
OF TELECOMMUNICATION
EQUIPMENT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : Communication in our country need considerable and significant improvement very rapidly. Communication is the backbone of industrial development and is also necessary for reaching the rural masses. Apart from telephones, other significant forms of communication like telex, data communication, electronic mail, facsimile and of various other types have to be developed very rapidly in our country to meet the aspirations of our people.

One of the major problems facing us in this area is the shortage of equipment in our country and considerable imports have, therefore, been resorted to. It is essential that such requirements of communication equipment are met from indigenous production.

2. Under the IPR 1956, 'A', which lists the industries, the future development of which will be the exclusive responsibility of the State, the following entry exists :

"Telephones and telephone cables, telegraph and wireless apparatus (excluding radio receiving sets)"

In view of this entry in Schedule 'A' these items, i. e. telephone and associated equipment, can be manufactured only in the Public Sector. However, the Industrial Policy Resolution permits expansion of existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the cooperation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units, when the national interests so require, but it has to be ensured that the requisite power to guide the policy and control the operations of the undertakings remains with the State.

3. In the past, private sector participation has been permitted as an exception, and the entry in the IPR has been interpreted to restrict the manufacture of all communication equipment in the public sector, either Central or State. However, with the rapid advance in technology and more and more telecommunication equipment getting standardised with well defined terminal interfaces, it has been considered necessary to secure the cooperation of private enterprise on a selective basis to manufacture some of these equipment and also to permit the manufacture of some of the items private sector. This would obviate the situation where we, at a later date, may either be unable to produce the basic equipment which is necessary or import such equipment or not meet the legitimate demand of the communication sector.

As the efficiency and stability of the system depends upon the specifications of the equipment, their quality and characteristics, the specifications would have to be laid down very carefully not only to meet the requirements of the internal communication system but also of the international communication system. To achieve this, very rigid specifications, testing procedures and type approvals would be necessary before equipment manufactured by private organisations can be accepted in the network. Steps would be taken to guard against repetitive imports of technology based on import of kits and sub-assemblies, particularly in the wake of opening the participation to the private sector,

Centralised purchase of technology would be adopted in many more areas particularly in the field of switching and transmission equipment and it would be incumbent upon the industrial undertakings to follow such policies as may be decided by Government from time to time in this regard.

4. The various activities broadly outlined above will be meshed into a national communication plan with clear-cut objectives, particularly for this decade at least. Apart from reflecting the quantitative requirements, the technological developments would also be kept fully in view which are to form the basis of the development of our communication network both in Civil, Defence, Railways and others so that commonality also occurs between the equipment to be used.

On a very careful consideration of all relevant issues, the Government have decided that :

1. The incorporation of private enterprise may be secured in the manufacture of switching and transmission equipment for communication sector with at least 51% share being held by the Central/State Governments and maximum of 49% being held by the private parties. This is already permissible under the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956.
2. The private sector may be permitted to take up the manufacture of telecommunication equipment for installation at the subscribers' premises such as telephone instruments, PABXs, teleprinters, data communication equipment etc.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have not understood what has been read by the hon. Minister.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly) : By these measures, they are doling out all those things which are being manufactured in the public sector and the multi-nationals.

DR. M. S. SANJEEVI RAO : I would like to answer this. It is the West Bengal Government which is operating under the joint sector with Philips.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : It is not for telephone receivers or telex instruments.

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MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) Conversion of Dabhoi-Pratapnagar Chhota Udaipur narrow gauge line into Broad gauge line

श्री अमर सिंह राठवा (छोटा उदयपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आदिवासी क्षेत्र जिला बड़ौदा तहसील छोटा उदयपुर का रहने वाला हूँ। यह क्षेत्र रेल की स्थिति से बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ है।

अब इस क्षेत्र का उद्योगीकरण किया जा रहा है, मगर रेल सुविधा न होने के कारण यहां के निवासियों को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान आने-जाने में अपना सामान भेजने में बहुत कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है।

इस क्षेत्र में नैरोगेज लाइन जो डमोई प्रतापनगर द्वारा छोटा उदयपुर पर स्थित है, उसकी सेवा ठीक प्रकार से उपलब्ध नहीं है। न उसका समय ठीक है जिसके कारण वहां के निवासियों को बहुत कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है वहां के निवासियों को यह मांग है कि इस रेल मार्ग को ब्राड-गेज में बदला जाये तथा इसको इन्दौर तक बढ़ाया जाये ताकि इस पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र को इस बदलती दुनिया के साथ जोड़ा जाये।