

12.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWELFTH REPORT

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts): I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for year 1969-70, Central Government (Civil) relating to the Ministry of Supply.

STATEMENT RE INDIA-BANGLADESH TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the India-Bangladesh Telecommunications Agreement.

Statement

As members of this house may already be aware Telecommunication Services between India and Bangladesh were established immediately following the birth of the new nation. Telecommunication Services were made available not only between India and Bangladesh but also between Bangladesh and other countries via India. The terms and conditions originally applicable to Telegrams and Telephone calls between India and erstwhile East Pakistan were applied as an interim measure, pending finalisation of an Agreement.

Simultaneously, the Telecommunication Administrations of both countries commenced negotiations for a mutually satisfactory Agreement incorporating fresh terms and conditions to suit the pattern of community of interest in telecom traffic between the two countries. I am happy to state that as a result of these negotiations both countries reached

full accord regarding the Telecommunication Services between India and Bangladesh and a Telecommunications Agreement was Signed in Dacca on 27th March, 1972 by Shri N. V. Shenoi, Secretary (Communications) on behalf of Govt. of India and by Shri Logman Hussain, Director General Telephone and Telegraphs, Dacca on behalf of Govt. of Bangladesh.

The salient features of the new Agreement are as detailed below:—

Telegrams :

The charge for a telegram, other than Press category, from any place in India to any place in Bangladesh will be Rs. 2.40 for 8 words or less and 20 paise for each additional word if it is of the 'Ordinary' class and twice the above rates if it is 'Express'.

For Press telegrams the corresponding rates will be Rs. 1.75 for the first 50 words and 20 paise for every 5 additional words in the case of 'ordinary' class and twice the above rates for "Express" class.

Telephones :

India has been divided into two zones for purposes of determining the telephone charges, Zone-I comprises the States of Arunachal, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal and Tripura and Zone II the rest of India. For a telephone call between Zone I in India and Bangladesh the charge will be Rs. 6.00 for 3 minutes or less and Rs. 2.00 for each additional minute. For a telephone call between Zone-II in India and Bangladesh the corresponding rates will be Rs. 15.00 and Rs. 5.00 respectively.

Accounting

There will be no accounting of the collections in either country in respect of all telegrams in both directions and in respect of those telephone calls which originate or terminate in Zone-I. Each country will keep its own collections. In the case of telephone calls between Zone-II in India and Bangladesh, outgoing or incoming, the total collections will be divided between India and Bangladesh in the ratio of 4 : 1.

Traffic transited via India

For Telecommunication Service between Bangladesh and other countries transited via