

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite this, majority of the staff listed in the Directory, do not respond to the telephone calls from subscribers and if so, corrective steps proposed in this regard ; and

(d) whether Government propose to impose cumulative fines on the staff for misuse of telephones of subscribers through diversion of phone calls deliberately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The telephone connections are sanctioned for staff of the Department of Telecommunications, who deal largely with telephone based services for carrying out their duties. These are sanctioned on the basis of requirements of work.

(b) It would be quite difficulty to collect the information from all over the country of the number of such staff and the annual expenditure within a reasonable time.

(c) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that the staff do not respond to telephone calls from subscribers.

(d) Provision of disciplinary action against a defaulting official already exists under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules

Compensation to Telephone Subscribers

3997. SHRI M. RAGHUMA
REDDY :
SHRI SRIHARI RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether government had given an assurance during the Seventh Lok Sabha concerning the proposal to compensate telephone subscribers whose telephones remain dead ;

(b) if so, the present position of the above proposal ;

(c) whether government are aware that invariably supervisory staff in special services are missing from their seats and on ringing them, after failing to get response from 198/199 etc., it is found that the same person attends to supervisors calls ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the senior staff listed are invariably absent ; and

(e) whether Government propose to re-organise the entire system to make it really affective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No compensation is afforded for telephones remaining out of order. This is due to the fact that the exchange indoor equipment and the outdoor plant remains reserved for the same telephone and the maintenance staff attends to and repairs the fault as early as possible. If a telephone is disconnected on administrative considerations, no rental is charged. For telephones, which are closed for shifting to a different locality and cannot be shifted due to the inability of the Department (e.g., for want of cable pair or capacity in the exchange etc.), rebate in rental is granted if the telephone is not shifted within 15 days.

(c) No, Sir. However, sometimes when adequate number of supervisory staff are not available due to absence or shortages, their telephone calls are answered by other staff present in the exchange.

(d) and (e) : The senior staff listed are usually available on their number. They might not be available sometimes if they are busy attending to other work, meetings or on inspection duties.

However, their calls are attended by their personal staff in such cases. They are required to be available between 3-4 p.m. every day in their offices for meeting the public without prior appointment.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to Junior Advocates

3998. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to enact some Central legislation for providing assistance to junior advocates to improve their economic condition and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that junior advocates throughout the country have been demanding for a long time the introduction of a welfare scheme and financial assistance from Government and if so, Governments reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Under sections 6 and 7 of the Advocates Act, 1961 the State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India respectively are empowered to constitute one or more funds for the purpose of giving financial assistance to organise welfare schemes for the indigent, disabled or other Advocates. At present no fresh proposal for legislation is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Government is aware of demands made on behalf of junior Advocates for providing them assistance in several aspects. Government is considering to appoint a committee to make in-depth study into the matters relating to social security of the members of the bar.

[*English*]

Equity Structure in Joint Sector Projects

3999. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND

COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government enterprises are found guilty of violation of the Central guidelines regarding equity structure in joint sector projects ;

(b) if so, the action taken against such State Government enterprises ; and

(c) the details of such enterprises ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIE MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c) : Government have issued guidelines regarding the pattern of shareholding and disposal of equity holdings in projects, promoted by State Industrial Development Corporations for setting up projects in the Joint Sector. Wherever, a proposal is received from any State IDC for amendment of a letter of intent or industrial licence, in favour of a Joint Sector Project, it is considered in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Freezing of Telephone Exchange in Delhi

4000. SHRI NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some telephone exchanges in Delhi Telecom. Circle have been frozen and any new connection/shifting of telephone connections of such exchanges have been stopped ;

(b) if so, the names of these Exchanges and the date from which these have been frozen and the likely date by which these would be defrozen ;

(c) whether any relief is possible or has been granted for emergency purposes and the connection/shifting allowed in such Exchanges during the period these were frozen ; and