

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) During the period May-October, 1992, DESU detected 9968 cases of unauthorised electricity connections and 156 persons were arrested by Delhi Police in this regard. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. DESU has intensified raids against theft and other violations in use of electricity and FIRs are lodged with the Police against persons found involved in this offence.

[English]

**Review of Indian Telegraph Act.
1885**

1131. **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAOVADDE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up to review the Indian Telegraph Act, 1985 has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P V RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below

(c) The report has been taken up for examination.

STATEMENT

The Committee has recommended

passing of a new single legislation covering the Indian Telegraph Act (1885). The Indian wireless Telegraphy Act (1933) and the Indian Telegraph Wires Unlawful possession Act (1950) and to name the new Act as "The Indian Telecommunication Act" (199-).

The tone of the Act which was Authority oriented is sought to be changed to service or consumer oriented. The main recommendations of the committee are as under:

1. The scope of the section relating to privileges and powers of the Government has been proposed to be considerably enlarged by defining the status and role of the different players in the business of telecommunications. In addition to the privileges and powers, the duties and responsibilities have also been added.

2. No change has been proposed in the privileges of the Central Government to establish, maintain and operate telecommunication systems, apparatus and services and the power of the Central Government to grant licenses.

3. In the environment of a possibility of a number of licensee service providers, besides the Central Government, the Committee has recommended that the status of the organisation of the Government responsible for establishment, maintenance and operation of telecommunication systems, apparatus and services retained by the Government under the above privilege should be at par with the licensee service providers for the purpose of regulation and controls. Also this organisation should have an identity distinctly separate from the Central Government. The Committee has proposed that this organisation may be called "telecom operating authority"

4. It is proposed that the Central Gov-

ernment should be responsible for the functions which are common to all the service providers namely,

- (i) Standardisation
- (ii) Research and development
- (iii) Preparation and monitoring of the development plans
- (iv) Regulation and management of frequency spectrum
- (v) Management of relations with International Bodies

5 The Central Government should create a statutory authority to monitor and regulate the services and settle the disputes between the subscribers and the service provider, or between two service providers. This authority has been given the name "telecom regulatory authority" and its duties and responsibilities have been listed in the proposed Act.

6 In order to make the Act service oriented, the duties and responsibilities of the "service provider" and the "subscribers" have been listed in the proposed Act.

7 The section dealing with the rates for transmission of telecommunications within and outside India is proposed to be modified and factors to be kept in view while fixing these rates have been listed.

8 The section relating to settlement of disputes is proposed to have provision to deal with disputes between subscribers and the service provider and also the disputes between two service providers. The arbitrator is proposed to be appointed by the

telecom regulating authority instead of the Central Government.

9 A modification in section dealing with fraudulent use of telecommunication system is proposed to widen it to include any person who dishonestly obtains telecommunication service with a view to avoid payment, and employee helping him to do so.

10 A new section has been proposed to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

More Telecommunication facilities in Maharashtra

1132 SHRIVILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to provide some additional telecommunication facilities in Maharashtra, and

(b) if so, the details for the places selected for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER
IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI P V RANGAYYA NAIDU) (a) Yes Sir

(b) 1 It is proposed to provide STD Facility to 58 places in Maharashtra during 92-93 (list is given in the attached statement -I

2 It is also proposed to open 133