

M. Ps' Outstanding Telephone Bills

4960. SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any bills of telephones are yet to be collected from the M. Ps. for the last year viz., upto the 31st March, 1972; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the steps taken by Government to recover the same at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Telephone bills issued upto 1.3.72 amounting to Rs 1,16,444.32 are outstanding against 83 M. Ps of the Lok Sabha and 60 of the Rajya Sabha. The bills issued on 11 & 21.3.*2 are not included in this amount as these became due for presentation to Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat for settlement, only on 10.4.72. This information is in respect of their Delhi/New Delhi telephones provided under the Housing & Telephones Facilities (M. Ps.) Rules, 1956, and does not cover telephones provided to M. Ps in their constituencies in respect of which information is not readily available. The telephone authorities are pursuing these cases with the Hon'ble Members of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat as the case may be.

Powers to States for setting up Industries

4961. SHRI M. RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to give more powers to the States to start new industries and to allow use of foreign exchange involved in such ventures; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposals ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The views of the State Governments are always given due consideration in the formulation of policies and in the process of licensing. As regards foreign

exchange, since the situation continues to be under considerable strain, it is not possible to place a bulk amount at the disposal of State Governments. However, within the frame-work of existing policy and procedures, foreign exchange required for imports by State Governments is being made available to the extent necessary.

Shortage of Raw Materials in Tamil Nadu

4962. SHRI M. RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether industries in Tamil Nadu are facing shortage of industrial raw materials like iron and steel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to arrange for adequate supply of various raw materials in the state ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) There is a general shortage of steel and certain other industrial raw materials throughout the country.

(b) Large scale imports of iron and steel, both through the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and by actual users, have been arranged. During the period April—1971—February 1972, the value of import licence for steel was as high as Rs. 243 crores. Compared to 1969-70, the total value of import licences for industrial raw materials increased by 35.5% and by a further 17% in April 1971—February 1972 as compared to April 1970—February 1971. Due share of the above imports, in keeping with policy, will also be available to Tamil Nadu.

Modification of Concurrent and State List in the Constitution

4963. SHRI M. RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to modify the Concurrent List in the Constitution and transfer broadcasting from the Central List to the State List to bring regional autonomy in this respect; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?