

Title: Need to rationalise and remove disparities in the rental charges taken for telephone connection in different exchanges of Madurai in Tamil Nadu and other BSNL covered areas of the Country.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are living in a modern era where we have communication technology that has revolutionised our town. Use of telephone is not a luxury it has become some thing essential even to ordinary citizens. That is why we find the rural people and even poor agriculturists go in for using this telephone facility.

â€¦(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mohan.

SHRI P. MOHAN : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are living in a modern era where we have communication technology that has revolutionised our town. Use of telephone is not a luxury it has become some thing essential even to ordinary citizens. That is why we find the rural people and even poor agriculturists go in for using this telephone facility.

But the telecommunication policy of the Union Government seriously hampers the growing trend. Especially when it comes to the rentals charged on subscribed telephones, it is at variance with one another even within a telephone circle. In my Madurai constituency we have the headquarters of the Madurai telephone circle which consists of three revenue districts Madurai, Theni and Dindigul. There are different rental tariffs for these three towns and adjoining rural areas. In Madurai the rental charge is Rs 500. In Theni the rental collected is Rs 360. In Dindigul the rental charge remains to be Rs 240. These rentals are applicable even to villages adjoining these towns. Why should there be a disparity in these rentals collected within the same circle. Madurai city as a commercial town has people who can afford these rental charges. But it is not fair to impose it on the poor rural masses adjoining cities and towns.

At a time when Government talks about rural telephony there are many remote villages that have not been connected with telephone. There is also declining trend in the use of telephones in the rural areas. Particularly in Madurai Telecom District alone about 1000 telephones have been surrendered. At least 30% of the people who have sought disconnection blame it on the irrational rental charges. At a time when the rural people and poor masses are to be encouraged to use telephone which has become an ordinary requirement the policy of the telecom management discourages people and force them to go for disconnection. The collection of rent, as I have been informed, is not only applicable to Madurai but it is there in all the BSNL covered areas all over the country.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to rationalise and streamline the rental tariff exchange wise as it was there all these years.

With this I conclude, thank you.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

श्री सईदुज्जमा (मुजफ्फरनगर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी बात भी सुनिए।â€¦(व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको बोलने का चांस दूंगा।â€¦(व्यवधान)

डॉ. संजय पासवान : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको बिहार की बात सुननी पड़ेगी। ऐसे कैसे चलेगा।â€¦(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called him.