

जाने की जरूरत होती होगी लेकिन उसमें ज्यादा लोगों की संख्या नहीं है।

Payment of dues by Bombay Telephones to Bombay Municipal Corporation

***707. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to states :

(a) Whether Government are aware that Bombay Telephones have to pay to the Bombay Municipal Corporation Rs. 98.46 lakhs ;

(b) the details of these dues ; and

(c) the reason for non-payment of these dues so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N PATIL) : (a) Bills for Rs. 91.92 lakhs from Bombay Municipal Corporation were pending with Bombay Telephones on 31-3-84.

(b) Bills for Rs. 28.85 lakhs have been returned for rectification of deficiencies. Bills for Rs. 36.42 lakhs have since been paid. 124 bills for Rs. 26.65 lakhs mainly relating to road reinstatement charges are being processed for payment.

(c) The bills which mostly relate to road reinstatement charges are paid as soon as the area, rate, etc. are checked. Whenever any discrepancy is noticed, the bills are returned for rectification.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir, it has been stated that Rs. 91.92 lakhs were pending payment and the Municipal Corporation has already got a big problem of money and therefore they are not able to give amenities to the poor people. But the Central Government which has got much more money has got this much amount of money pending for collection. After I filed the question, some payments have been made. It is in a way an improvement in the situation.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : And after the Question Hour some more payments will be made.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What is the kind of delay in making these payments ? Have you made an analysis as to for how many years some bills have been pending ? Is it a fact that some Bills are pending for as long as 12 years ? What is the distribution of time of the pending bills?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : I am sorry. I cannot give now the distribution of time for the pending bills. I would, however, like to mention that during the last one year the digging operations have been on the increase. We have provided 70,000 telephones and for that cables are required, and after the digging operations, the road reinstatement charges are to be paid to the Municipal Corporation, and because of this the payments to the Bombay Corporation have been on the increase specially during the last year We have made payments to them during the last year to the extent of Rs. 1.5 crores, and the bills for Rs. 91.92 lakhs are the current bills pending at the end of March, 1984. Some of them have been sent back for rectification for discrepancies like area not properly mentioned, certificates not endorsed, signatures of the authorised officers are not there etc. We have paid the other bills after verification, and payments are being made continuously.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The General Manager, Telephones, Bombay, is frequently complaining that the road digging operations which are undertaken by the Municipal Corporation are not being done properly and the telephone cables are cut, and this leads to dislocation, and the telephones go out of order. In view of the fact that huge payments are being made by the Telephones Departments, will you consider either going in for non-cable laying telephone system, or having your own Construction department so that this kind of insensitive digging of roads does not take place ?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : We cannot go in for non-cable telephone system. Of course, micro system is there, but it is not practicable in metropolitan towns. At the same time, we have to give connections to subscribers and pairs of cables will have to be laid underground. In all the cities of this country, we have made known to the people

through advertisements and write-ups in the directories to dial before they dig. Therefore, whenever the municipal or any other department etc. want to dig, they should dial us so that we can tell them, if there is anything, and we do try to have that coordination. And because of the expansion in cities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi etc., we have to undertake the digging operations continuously. Of course, we can avoid more digging for repairs by introducing the system of ducting, and we are introducing that system. By this we will not be required to remove the cables underground. Then, fibre optical technology is also coming up, by this a small portion of optical fibres carries thousands of lines. That system is coming and in course of time, this problem will be reduced in metropolitan cities.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : I am extremely sorry to say that among all the departments of the Central Government, the Telephone Department is the worst possible department. This has been unanimously pointed out by all the Chief Ministers of this country, all the political parties, Members of Parliament and MLAs as also private people. My telephone was not working for ten days in Madras. Nobody cares.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN : As an ex-employee, I take very strong objection to this. He may be an ex-employee.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Now we can understand why he is not working there.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : So far as the use of telephones by private parties is concerned, they are cutting out the connections if the delay caused is more than three months. Dr. Swamy's question is with special reference to the heaviest dues payable by the Bombay Municipal Corporation to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; it is the other way round. The Municipal Corporation has to get money from the Government.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : What is the action taken by the Municipal Corporation against this Government ?

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask the Municipal Corporation, and not these people.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sanat Kumar Mandal, Mr. Parmar and Mr. Nihal Singh are not there. Now Mr. K. A. Swami.

Norms for setting up of Broadcasting and T.V. Stations

*711. **SHRI K.A. SWAMI :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the norms prescribed for establishing and installing Broadcasting and T.V. Stations, Relay stations and Vividh Bharati in different parts of the country;

(b) whether these norms were observed in the case of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Selection of places for setting up a Radio Station or a T.V. Centre takes into account various factors, such as, extent of coverage to rural and urban population, service to border areas, remote and backward areas, coverage of large segment of working class/industrial population, availability of programme production and programme linking facilities and other infra-structure. The needs of places of cultural, historical and industrial importance