

**Telephone Advisory Committees**

165. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to reconstitute Telephone Advisory Committees (district level) in near future;

(b) the number of requests received from the Members of Parliament recommending names for such Committees;

(c) whether the requests from MPs received, so far, have since been acceded to; and

(d) if so, the relevant details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) 2887 requests for nomination in various Telephone Advisory Committees have been received from Members of Parliament, out of which, 2314 nominations have been made in the Committees.

**Irregularities in Department of Telecommunications**

166. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications has been committing irregularities and extending undue favour to its licencees during the past couple of years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount of losses inflicted on the Department in each case; and

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(c) whether the officials concerned have been asked to explain the reasons for such irresponsible acts intentional/unintentional and what action have been taken in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Categorization of commercial users**

167. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since categorized some of the telephone subscribers as commercial users;

(b) if so, the name of such categories;

(c) what are the extra levies on them; and

(d) since when these levies are applicable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's Telecommunications Tariff (Twentieth Amendment) Order, 2002 issued on 14-03-2002, subscribers have been categorized as commercial and non-commercial subscribers. As per this amendment, the commercial subscribers are to be charged higher rental and permitted lower free calls w.e.f. 01-04-2002, as per Statement enclosed (*See below*). However, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as operators have not yet. categorized any telephone as commercial users nor imposed any extra levies.