

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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RAJYA SABHA

(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.