

Increase in the telephone bills of Ministers

906. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a continuous increase in the telephone bills of the Ministers of the Central Government on their listed and unlisted telephones, during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details, viz. number of calls and amount of telephone bills of each Minister for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 and upto June, 94;

(c) whether these bills were paid within the prescribed period if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the names of ex-Ministers who were Ministers during the above period but after relinquishing their offices have not paid their bills so far; and

(e) what are the details of the call and amount of the telephone bills outstanding against each of them during the period mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (e) Such information is not kept by the Telecom. Department. The detailed particulars are maintained by the respective Ministries.

Production achievements by telecommunication factories

907. SHRI V. RAJESWAR RAO:
SHRI SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production in terms of value achieved by the

six telecommunication factories during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(b) what was the target of production set for these respective years;

(c) whether any cost benefit analysis has been made about these factories in view of the policy of liberalisation;

(d) whether the private sector is being allowed to produce the items which are being produced in these factories and to what extent; and

(e) what are the production cost benefit in these factories vis-a-vis private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Total production achieved in Telecom. Factories during 1992-93 was Rs. 135.24 Crores and during 1993-94 was Rs. 117.72 Crores.

(b) The production target for 1992-93 was Rs. 150 Crores and that for 1993-94 was Rs. 165 Crores.

(c) The main products of Telecom. Factories viz. CT Boxes, Microwave Towers, Tubes, Main Distribution Frames (MDF), DP Boxes, Local Pay Phones etc. are cost competitive with private suppliers. The production of items which have become obsolete due to technological advancement have been discontinued and new products viz., Tubular Towers/Masts, MDFs for medium and large Exchanges, Line Jack Units, Antennas, Connectors etc. have been included in the production programme for 1994-95 with a view to utilise the existing infrastructure and resources. Chief General Managers have been authorised to take up any DOT/non DOT product for manufacture and market them at competitive cost and quality. It is considered that Telecom Factories can be run as viable units even in the environment of liberalised policy.