

from the Centre. The land is provided by the voluntary organisation from the State. We also give a running grant to the voluntary organisation for running them. For this year, we have a target of 60 hostels to be sanctioned. They are not run by the Central Government. They are run by voluntary organisations to whom the money is given. In the Seventh Plan, the outlay for this is Rs. 30 crores. We are hoping, therefore, to expand the programme. I cannot say that we will have one in every district because it depends upon the need of a particular district. The proposal comes to us, supported by the State Government, before it is sanctioned by us.

#### Complaints for inflated Telephone Bills

\*25. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:†

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints in regard to inflated telephone-bills have been received from subscribers in the Capital, including some Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, what is the number of such complaints received during the last one year;

(c) whether some of the officials of the Post and Telegraphs are found to be involved in the racket; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1986-87, 12,736 complaints (including 32 from M.Ps.) were received.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Each excess metering complaint received from the subscriber is examined thoroughly and rebate is granted, if found justified.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, oversimplifying a genuine problem is not always a good tactics. The question is wrong-billing and what safeguards should be taken to remedy the situation. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that they should follow the example; what is being done in Bombay. This is not done in Delhi. You should follow that example. There are complaints that the staff people include other's calls in the bill of a subscriber and sometimes fake calls are also included in the bill of a subscriber. The question is what remedial measures you are going to take.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the best safeguard is computerisation. We have done this in Bombay. In regard to Delhi also, this is in our mind. Unless we have the digital electronic exchange, we cannot do it. There is also the constraint of resources. But I would like to say that this is in our mind and we are doing it progressively so that we are able to eliminate vices if there are any. There have been complaints and we are taking a number of steps to see that the subscribers' complaints are redressed.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I pointed out about Bombay...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You did not understand. His answer was, in Bombay, they have computerised. Therefore, they are able to do it. He said, here also—in Delhi—they will be doing it.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, my second supplementary is, STD calls are made from a

subscriber's telephone by unauthorised persons. Would you fit some device in the subscriber's telephone so that he will be able to know who has made the call?

**SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV:**  
As I said, when computerisation is done, in the case of STD, we will be able to give the exact number to which the caller has made the call. Now, we cannot give it, I agree. But we will monitor it and if there is any mistake, we take certain measures to see that the grievance is redressed. As I said, we are taking steps. But this is subject to the availability of funds which are very limited. But we will do it gradually so that this is eliminated.

**SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**  
Sir, this question has been agitating our minds and this has been discussed many times in this House. The reply of the hon. Minister has always been a routine one. The Minister has very conveniently chosen to defend his officers by saying that they are not responsible for the mischief.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Questions Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Marketing Permission for Proleukin Interleukin-2

\*26. **SHRI T. R. BALU:**

**SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to make use of the latest anti cancer drugs, developed in the USA, namely Proleukin-Interleukin-2 (II-2); and

(b) whether any company has been given permission to market this drug in the country, if so, what are the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND**

**FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Company has sought permission so far to market this drug in the country.

### Meeting of Joint Consultative Committee of Railway Employees

\*27. **DR. BAPU KALDATE:**

**SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:**

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Joint Consultative Committee of the railway employees has not met for a long time;

(b) if so, when its last meeting was held; and

(c) what were the decisions taken at that meeting and whether those decisions have been implemented?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):** (a) There is no Committee designated as Joint Consultative Committee on the Railways. It is presumed that the Hon'ble Members are referring to Departmental Council under the Joint Consultative Machinery. It is not a fact that a meeting of the Departmental Council under the Ministry of Railways has not been held for a long time.

(b) Last meeting of Departmental Council was held on 30-12-86 and 31-12-86.

(c) In this meeting, 59 carried forward items and 33 fresh items covering a wide range of Staff Side demands were discussed. Out of these, 25 carried forward items and 8 fresh items were finalised. There were 11 items from the previous meetings which had been referred to the various Committees of the Departmental Council. The Council adopted the reports of the two Committees and decided that remaining 9 items would be discussed in a special meeting of the Departmental Council.