

एक माननीय सदस्य : यह राजनी-
तिव दृष्टा है । . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra):
Sir, he has given the concrete cases . .
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a
State subject. The State Government must
be looking into it.

SHRI VISHWAJIT PRITHVIJIT
SINGH (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy
Chairman. Sir, Mr. Satya Pal Malik has
just now made a Special Mention about
the World Sikh Conference and explained
the gravity of the situation. I have put
in a notice for a Calling Attention discus-
sion and it has been signed by various
other Members of the House also. I would
like to inform you, Sir, that on this sub-
ject a notice was put in in the Lok Sabha
which has already been accepted, and
it has been listed. So, I would like to
request you, Sir, to kindly accept this
and list this as soon as possible. This is
a matter of grave national importance.
Everybody has been talking for a long
time as to where is the foreign hand, what
is the foreign hand, let us know the fore-
ign hand. Now we have come to know
something concrete. Let us talk about it.
We would like to have a proper discus-
sion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put
in the notice. We will consider. Now, we
take up the Bills for consideration.

THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMEND- MENT BILL, 1983

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI V. N. GADGIL): Mr. Deputy
Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the
Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken
into consideration."

Sir, this short Bill seeks to amend the
Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 which was
passed on 22nd July, 1885. Those of us

who have a sense of history will appre-
ciate that in the centenary year of the Act,
very significant but not controversial am-
endments are being brought before this
House.

Sir, it is common place that society and
law lag behind technological developments.
The initial response to anything new,
anything unfamiliar is to resist it. We
have tried in this Bill to make the neces-
sary changes so that the telephone net-
work can work properly with the new
technology. Initial resistance is always
there. Some of the hon. Members know
that when Graham Bell introduced the
telephone and took it to the Western Un-
ion Company, the reaction of the com-
pany was and it is recorded in the minutes
of the meeting of the Board of Directors
that this is a device no sensible man will
use and therefore not a penny should be
invested. The history of telephones also
tells us that the reaction of the British
cousins of the Americans was more in-
teresting. Their reaction was, why should
we have this instrument, we have a large
number of messenger boys in the secret-
ariat and they can do the job! Nearer
home, with a little bit of investigation I
found that the telephone were first in-
troduced in Delhi at the time of the Delhi
Durbar. From that time up to 1923 there
was no demand for telephones. Ultimately
the Government of India issued a circu-
lar to all departments asking them to take
telephones. The reaction of the civil ser-
vants was exactly the same. They said,
we have a large number of chaprasis, why
do we want telephones. Things have chan-
ged enormously since then. Just to give
you an idea . . . (Interruptions). This will
answer another to your pet arguments.
When we got Independence in August
1947 in the whole of the country there
were only 80,000 telephones. Today in
Delhi city alone last year we introduced
55,000 telephones. That has been the
progress. When we became independent,
there were hardly 500 places in the whole
country where telecommunication facilities
were available. Today there are 22,000
cities, towns and other places where this
facility is available.

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

Coming to the technical side, in 1947 our telephone network had 640 channels and circuits. Sir, when I took over this Ministry first, I did not frankly understand anything, having no science background. Whenever I asked the officers why telephones are not working in this exchange, the reply was channels are not available. When I asked why these telephones are not working, the reply was circuits are not available. This channels, circuits business I did not understand. I told them, you will have to teach me. Being a politician, the only circuit I knew was the circuit in the circuit house, and the only channel I knew was through proper channel! There has been expansion over the years. The enormous expansion that has taken place since 1947 has created some legal problems. Qualitatively we have changed several types of technology, right from stronger now to the latest electronic digital system.

As soon as we came into power in 1980, my Ministry on its own constituted a group of officers to find out whether any legal problems arose in the implementation of our new programme. They communicated this to various general managers of circles, general managers in charge of maintenance, general managers in charge of planning. We also held a number of discussions and finally we went to the law Ministry and ultimately this Bill has been prepared and brought. As I said, at the outset, it is not a controversial Bill and it is not necessary for me to make a detailed speech. But I would like to state only the broad outline of the five or six problems we face for which amendments in law are necessary. The first thing is that originally we had only the underground cables and overhead wires. Now we have VHF, UHF, Microwave and even the Satellite. Now, for example, under the definitions in the Act the definition of 'telegram' is inadequate. And, therefore, it is proposed in the Bill to expand the definition of telegram as well as to add the definition of 'tower' 'cabin' etc. Because without this it will be difficult to work. Now the pipelines will come. If you want to do some work near pipelines some ingenious lawyers may be correct

if they say that telegram does not include cable, or cable does not include pipe, so how can you do it?

So, we are trying to anticipate what legal difficulties may be created, and therefore, additional amendments are proposed.

Of course, one can stretch—the judges can stretch... but it depends on the court. If you permit me, I will cite an instance. While practising in Bombay, High Court, a sugarcane grower filed a writ petition and the question for consideration was, what is the meaning of the term vegetable under the Sales Tax Act. It came before two distinguished judges of the Bombay High Court; lawyers on this side and lawyers on that side argued and argued for a fortnight; dictionaries were quoted; authorities were cited, precedents were enumerated and the two distinguished judges of Bombay High Court solemnly declared that sugarcane is vegetable. So, we do not want that it should be stretched; let us make it clearer what telegram means, what a cable means and what a tower means. Therefore, the proposed amendment is about the definition.

The second problem which we have faced is about some agitations. Agitations are legitimate in a democracy. I accept. But unfortunately what happens is, the first favourite target is the transport, the buses and the second is the poor post-office or the telegraph office. So, we are making a provision that anybody doing the illegal act of damaging or destroying telephone exchange will be liable for punishment.

The third problem, according to our officers, is that although there is rule-making power, it is not very clear when you can issue a licence and under what conditions. When you can revoke and all that. I have myself been Chairman of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha for two years and I hold the view, which the Committee also held, and rightly, that power should not be sought to be derived from the rule; it should be made clearer. Therefore, we are making it clear in this amendment and that under the rules, when a licence for telephone or wireless can be issued and what would be the...

it can be revoked, what is the procedure and such matters.

The other problem is, as I mentioned, sometime our exchanges and our buildings are disfigured by some people unauthorisedly. And I can claim with some pride that some of the best buildings, from architectural point of view, are the post office and telegraph office buildings. Take the Bangalore building; it is in tune with the surrounding architecture, in marble. Suppose, somebody tomorrow disfigures it. It will not only be an offence to the aesthetic sense of ours but also against the social values. Therefore, we are providing for penalty for such disfiguring of the building.

Last, and perhaps the most important, is, there is a mischief in some exchanges and that mischief is of diversion of lines. There are some bad elements among the employees, as in all professions and all walks of life, who seek to divert the lines so that a call originating from me is made to appear as originating, say from Mr. Patil's house, or the meter is stopped so that free call is given and nothing is charged. When I went through the Act I found that there is no specific provision to deal with this, and by stretching it a little, you can bring it within the ambit of section 21. But the punishment will be only Rs. 50. So, we are adding a new section to say that diversion of lines will be a cognisable offence and the punishment will be 3 years. We hope that it will act as a deterrent; it will benefit the subscriber, as well as the Government which loses large amount of revenue.

Rest of the amendments are mostly consequential in nature and, therefore, I will not dilate on them. I will put it in one sentence that this Bill reflects the response of law to technological developments and, therefore, with these few words, I command that the House do take it into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment by Shri Ramakrishnan.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha consisting of the following members namely:—

1. Shri Dipen Ghosh
2. Shri R. Mohanarangam
3. Shri S. W. Dhabe
4. Shri Lal K. Advani
5. Shri V. Gopalsamy
6. Shri K. Ramamurthy
7. Shri Ramanand Yadav
8. Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy
9. Shri Kalyan Roy
10. Shri M. Kalyanasundaram
11. Shri R. Ramakrishnan

With instructions to report by the first week the next Session."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Motion for consideration and the amendment are now open for discussion. We have two hours for this Bill. Shri Sukomal Sen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I have carefully listened to the hon. Minister, while introducing the Bill. He has said about the first introduction of the telegraph and telephone system during the Delhi Durbar and he also said that the Act was first enacted in 1885. My impression about the telegraph and telephone system is this that perhaps, in 1984, after hundred years of enactment of this original Act, we have almost gone back to the Delhi Durbar stage, to the period of the Delhi Durbar and to the period when this Act was initially enacted.

[**The Vice-Chairman** (Shri Syed Ahmed Ali, in the Chair)]

Sir, the telephone service in this country, everybody will agree, is in a shambles. Even in regard to telegrams, Ordinary telegrams, when it will reach the destination, nobody knows. In regard to urgent telegrams, if one sends it, one is not sure, there is no guarantee that it will reach in time. In regard to telephones, it is simply horrible. Sometimes, the telephones remain dead, not for a day or two, but for weeks

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

together. But the subscriber has to pay the rent as usual.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal): For months.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: For several months also. Then, there are wrong connections and other faults are also there in the telephone system. There is no system in the telephone department to improve these things, to rectify all these faults and defects. The people in the country, the subscribers hoped that a Bill will be brought forward which will try to improve the telegraph service and the telephone system and that Government will take measures, stringent measures and methods, to improve the telephone service. But instead of this, our hon. Minister has now come up with a Bill, which has actually nothing to do with the improvement of the telephone service. The hon. Minister has said that this Bill is in response to law, he also said it is in response to technological development. What technological development and what response to it, I do not understand. In other countries, which call, to a certain extent, developed, we have seen how fast and how efficient the telecommunication service is. For a civilised society, for the development of a society and its industry and economy, a fast and accurate telecommunication service is a must. But ours is a different case. I am disappointed that the hon. Minister has come up with a Bill which has actually nothing to do with the improvement of the service. I am disappointed that the Ministry has not thought it fit to bring forward a Bill for improvement of the telephone service or to take some administrative measures, or certain other measures, to develop it. On the contrary, they have come up with a Bill which is actually designed against the employees who are working in the telephone and telegraph departments, against the trade union movement and also against the general democratic movement. I will show it one by one.

About the provisions of this Bill, it is seen that penalties and punishment have been made more stringent. If this Bill is not considered in an isolated manner, if

this Bill is considered in an overall manner, how the Government is functioning and how the other Bills are coming up, you will find that the Government of India, now a days, is trying to arm itself with more and more draconian powers, extraordinary powers. One by one, they are coming up with either Ordinances or with amendments to existing Bills, which will give them draconian powers to deal with mass movements in the country, to deal with agitations by various sections of the people on different issues. Actually, this Bill is designed to arm the Government with more draconian powers so that they can deal with certain situations. I feel, Sir, the offences which could be dealt with by the other laws of the land, like the Indian Penal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code, these offences will now be dealt with by this Bill in a more stringent way. I will give examples. Amendment has been made in section 24 making punishment more stringent. In place of one year imprisonment they have substituted 3 years of imprisonment for tampering with telephones. If any tampering is done by some elements in the telephone lines to get the message to learn the message, he will be punished by three years of imprisonment instead of one year's imprisonment. Here I would like to ask the Government when Government itself makes some arrangement for tampering with the phones of the political leaders who are in the opposition, when they tap the telephones of the opposition leaders and the opposition Members of the Parliament, has any punishment been prescribed for that? If the telephone service of the opposition leaders or of any opposition trade union leaders or of political leaders is tapped by Government by some mechanism, what is the punishment for that? This thing is going on very freely. Every one of us knows that, how the telephones of the opposition Members, of the leaders of the trade unions and other political parties are tapped, how the messages are conveyed to the Government by tapping of the telephones.

Then I will come to section 27A. The provision made under Section 27A is all

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

right. I agree with it. But when you come to Section 27B, it has no connection with the diversion of lines which is criminally done by some people. Section 27B(2) in the Bill says:

"If any person maliciously defaces, disfigures or otherwise destroys any sign board or any equipment in a telegraph office, or office, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees."

Our Minister has talked about the architectural values of telegraph office and other places. We have examples and instances when we have found that the employees of the trade unions, when they have gone in agitation, have put up some posters on the walls of the telegraph office and they have been punished for that. So, it is not the question of architectural value. Everyone to us in the country knows the architectural value of the important places of the monuments, whether they are telegraph buildings or historical buildings or any other such places. But we have instances when trade union people and other telegraph employees have been punished when they have put up some posters or when they have written some slogans or some of their demands on the walls of the telegraph offices. They were punished and they were proceeded against. Therefore, this is directly meant against the employees who are in the telegraph and telephone services.

Coming to the amendment made in section 28, the original section 28 of the Act says, I quote:

"If any telegraph office, or any person not being a telegraph officer but having official duties connected with any office which is used as a telegraph office is guilty of any act of drunkenness, carelessness or other misconduct..."

Now the Government in this Bill has added the words "wilful slackness, obstructions," after the word "carelessness". In this connection, Sir, we know it very well that go-slow is a legitimate part of the trade union movement. I feel that for suppressing the trade union movement for punishing the employees who adopt go-slow

traffic they have inserted these words, 'wilful slackness, obstruction'. After the Bill is passed, all the go-slow tactics of the trade unions of the telegraph and telephone employees will be dealt with under this provision of this Bill and they will be punished by severe penalty of imprisonment for three years instead of three months as was the case in the original Act. Then I give another example. If you see section 32A, you find that arbitrary powers have been conferred on the investigation officer. I do not want to waste the time of the House but if you read clause 32(a) and other sub-clauses, you find that any gazetted officer of the Central Government authorised by a general or special order for investigating into any suspected case of commission of a cognizable offence has been given sweeping powers to interrogate people to collect information, to compel people to give information. In this way these Government officials have been given extraordinary powers, sweeping powers to deal with their employees.

Then we find that in another way the employees have been made a target in this Bill. There is another clause which says that any person required to furnish any information or to produce any telegraph apparatus, registers, records or other documents to an officer authorised under section (2) shall be bound to do so within the meaning of sections 175 and 176 of the IPC. Here also the language is that any person can be compelled to give information. It means the whole drafting of the Bill has been done in such a way as to arm the Government with extraordinary and sweeping powers to deal with all sorts of agitations outside the telephone services and inside the telephone services. So it is against the trade union movement and the employees. It is against the democratic and other agitations of the masses and this Bill has nothing to do with improving the telephone services or improving the telegraph services. So I am very sorry I have no other option but to oppose this Bill wholeheartedly. Thank

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र (बिहार) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं विधेयक का

[श्री महन्द्र मोहन मिश्र]

जो अभी इस सदन में आया है, उसका तहेदिल से समर्थन करता हूँ। इस सिलसिले में हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने, इस विधेयक के लाने के पूर्व जो कठिनाई थी, उसका जिक्र किया। इस सिलसिले में मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि मैं अभी अमेरिका ओपन हार्ट सर्जरी कराने गया था तो मुझे वहाँ टेलीफोन संचार व्यवस्था को देखने का मौका मिला। जब मैं आपरेशन के लिये जा रहा था तो मुझे अपने बैड पर से ही पटना, मुम्बई, बंगलौर, दिल्ली अपने लड़के से, भाबियों से, पिता जी से बात करने का मौका मिला। मैंने सोचा कि देखो संचार सेवा इन देशों में कितनी सुविधापूर्वक है। आपने कहा कि 1947 में कुल 80 हजार ही हमारे देश में टेलीफोन थे और गत साल 1983 में 55 हजार टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था प्रदान की। मैं निश्चित तौर पर यह कह सकता हूँ कि बहुत सोच समझ कर मंत्री जी इस विधेयक को सदन में लाये हैं। एडवांस टेक्नोलॉजी के बढ़ने से निरन्तर इसमें प्रगति हो रही है और इससे इनको कठिनाई होती है। इस संचार सेवा को किस तरह से हम लोगों में प्रिय बना सकें इस कारण वह यह बिल लाये हैं। आपने कहा कि बसों में लोग चलते हैं लेकिन बहुत से लोग बिना टिकट सफर करते हैं, रेलों में बिना टिकट सफर करते हैं। हम उन्हें पकड़ कर फाइन कर सकते हैं। लेकिन जो हमारी संचार सेवाओं में दुरुपयोग करते हैं, चोरी करते हैं उनको पकड़ने का और सजा देने का कोई साधन नहीं है, कोई कानून नहीं है जिसके जरिये से उनको पकड़ सकें और सजा दे सकें। हमारे भाई ने कहा एम्प्लाइज के खिलाफ, उनके

खिलाफ यह बिल लाया गया है, ऐसी बात नहीं है। हमारी सुविधा किस तरह से बढ़े, इस उद्देश्य से सदन में यह बिल लाये हैं इसलिये मैं मंत्री जी का शुक्रगुजार हूँ।

दो-तीन बातें और कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं सन् 1983 में अमेरिका में था तो उस समय वहाँ वर्ल्ड कम्युनिकेशन ईयर मनाया गया था। उस समय निर्णय हुआ था, सरकार को कहा गया था कि इसकी सुविधा को बढ़ाने के लिये जितने अच्छे कदम उठा सकते हैं, उठाने चाहिये।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश में प्रगति तभी होगी जब यहाँ पर जो यातायात की सुविधाएं हैं, संचार की सुविधाएं हैं, उनमें प्रगति हो। इनमें प्रगति होने से निश्चित रूप से देश में प्रगति होगी। उसी के अनुरूप हमारी प्रधान मंत्री ने सन् 1983 में वर्ल्ड कम्युनिकेशन ईयर में दो-तीन महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिये। उन्होंने निर्णय लिया कि हमारे जितने भी मेजर एक्सचेंज सीटीज में हैं उनको इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एक्सचेंज में बदला जाय ताकि जितनी भी काल्स होती हैं वे आसानी से मिल सकें और उनमें किसी प्रकार की खराबी न होने पाये। जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है, दिल्ली में दो-चार इस प्रकार के एक्सचेंज उपयोग में आने लगे। दूसरा निर्णय उन्होंने यह लिया कि इन एक्सचेंजों में जितनी भी इक्विपमेंट्स, पार्ट-पुर्जे लगेंगे वे सब हमारे देश में ही बनेंगे, वे इंडिजिनस होंगे। अभी तक हमारा अनुभव यह रहा है कि अगर औजार बाहर से मंगाये जाते हैं तो उनमें खराबी आने पर उनको ठीक करने में काफी समय लग जाता है। लेकिन अब हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने जो यह निर्णय लिया कि इन औजारों का निर्माण

देश में किया जाएगा, इससे आसानी से किसी भी खराबी को दूर किया जा सकता है। इस मितसिले में आपने गौडा में एक प्रोजेक्ट लगाई है। इससे आसानी से उन पुर्जों को रिप्लेस किया जा सकता है जो खराब हो जाएंगे।

सन् 1947 में पहले हमारे देश में बहुत कम टेलीफोन थे। बड़े-बड़े शहरों में भी कुछ ही लोगों के पास, 15-20 लोगों के पास टेलीफोन या रेडियो हुआ करते थे। वे एक लक्जरी माने जाते थे आज समय की प्रगति ने यह सुविधा जरूरी कर दी है। इस दिशा में देश का तेजी से विकास हुआ है। इस दिशा में जो प्रगति हुई है यह हमारी पार्टी की देन है। यह बात जरूर है कि इसमें कुछ खामियां भी हैं और उन खामियों की तरफ हम मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान भी आकर्षित करते रहते हैं। लेकिन संचार काम जितना भी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर देश में पैदा हुआ है उनसे हमारे देश की प्रगति हो रही है।

आज स्थिति यह है कि अगर हम मुजफ्फरपुर में या बिहार के किसी क्षेत्र से या बिहार के उस इलाके से जहां से हमारे श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव आते हैं, वहां से हम त्रिवेन्द्रम या मदुराई, बंगलौर, बम्बई आदि किसी भी स्थान पर बात करना चाहते हैं तो बात कर सकते हैं। दिल्ली से दुनिया के किसी भी कोने में बात की जा सकती है। अभी कुछ दिन पहले आपने आस्ट्रेलिया और अरब देशों के साथ संचार संबंध स्थापित किये हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे देश ने संचार के क्षेत्र में काफी प्रगति की है। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस तरफ भी दिलाना चाहता हूं कि आपने रिसर्च टाइम बनाई है और उनकी अनुशंसा को आपने कानूनी रूप भी दिया है, लेकिन अभी देखने में

यह आता है कि टेलीफोन में कई बार वन वे ट्रैफिक चलता है। मान लीजिये, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपसे बात कर रहा हूं तो आपकी बात तो मुझे सुनाई देगी, लेकिन मेरी बात आपको सुनाई नहीं देगी। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि यह जो वन वे ट्रैफिक है, जो एक तरफ की लाइन खराब रहती है उसकी तरफ आप ध्यान देने की कृपा करें।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सन् 1982 में मैं इस सदन का सदस्य था। आपको यह मुनकर आश्चर्य होगा कि उस साल हमारा एक बार बिल 26 हजार रुपये का आ गया। नौ महीने तक हमको वेतन नहीं मिला। उस वक्त हमारे श्री स्टीफन साहब संचार मंत्री थे। मैंने उनको लिखा कि मैं एक गरीब सांसद हूं। अगर सुबह 9 शाम तक टेलीफोन चलता रहे तो भी इतना बिल नहीं आ सकता है। हम तो आधे समय बिहार में रहते हैं। उसके बाद सात महीने के 6-7 हजार रुपये हमें मिले, बाकी रुपये काट लिये गये। उसके बाद हमने अपना एस० टी० डी० काट दिया। पिछले महीने हमारा 15 सौ काल का बिल आया है। ये भी लोकल काल्स हैं।

श्री रामानन्द यादव (बिहा) : मैं टेलीफोन की चाबी जेब में लिये फिरता हूं, फिर भी मेरा एक हजार का बिल आया है।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र : श्रीमान एक बात मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां आपने शहरो में सुविधाएं दी हैं वहां देहातों में भी सुविधाएं देने का जरूरत है। आपने पांच किलोमीटर पर संचार सुविधा देन की बात कही है।

[श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र]

ताकि देहातों में भी इसको कर सकें । इसको करने के लिये, जैसी कि मुझे जानकारी है, 1990 तक सारे भारतवर्ष में आप एक नेट वर्क बना देंगे । भारत गांवों का देश है, अधिकांश लोग गांवों में रहते हैं, किसानों का देश है, इससे उनको भी यह सुविधा प्राप्त होगी । आपने इसमें जो चोरी होती है उसको आफेन्स बनाया है ताकि पुलिस उसको आसानी से पकड़ सके और एक्जीक्यूटिव मजिस्ट्रेट सजा दे सके । जो इस तरह की चोरी करता है वह हमारे समाज के साथ, हमारे एक्सचेंजर के साथ विश्वासघात करता है और उसका दुरुपयोग करता है । मैं मंत्री महोदय का इस बात के लिये शुभ्रगुजार हूँ कि उन्होंने इसमें चोरी करने वाले लोगों को, गलत काम करने वालों को कैद की सजा तथा फाइन की सजा का प्रावधान किया है, यह एक सही कदम है और मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ ।

अब मैं मंत्री जी से मुजफ्फरपुर, जो नार्थ बिहार का एक्सचेंज है उसके बारे में कहना चाहूंगा । आप वहां की फिगर उठाकर देखें । इन क्षेत्रों में, यह बात ठीक है कि बिजली की कमी के कारण कुछ सीमा तक इन एक्सचेंजों का चलना मुश्किल हो गया है । लेकिन आपकी ओर से जनरेटर्स का प्रबंध किया गया है । लेकिन यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि कहीं कहीं वहां के कर्मचारी जनरेटर्स नहीं चला पाते हैं और वे बेकार पड़े हुए हैं । नतीजा क्या होता है कि नम्बर आफ काल्स, मुजफ्फरनगर डिवीजन बहुत पुराना डिवीजन है, बहुत कम हो पाती हैं । आप जांच करवाइये कि 24 घंटों के अंदर वहां जो फाल्ट होते हैं उनकी कितनी रेपेयर होती है । कितने ट्रंक काल आते हैं तो कितने मच्योर होते । मैं जब अपने

क्षेत्र में जाता हूँ तो मैं एस० डी० ग्री० (टेलीफोन) को कहता हूँ कि मैं यहां आ गया हूँ जरा ख्याल रखिये तो वे उसमें सुधार कर देने हैं । श्रीमन्, मैं तो एक सांसद हूँ लेकिन जो एक आम नागरिक को परेशानी होती है उसको देखते हुए मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वहां अधिकांश टेलीफोन आउट आफ ऑर्डर है । ज्यादातर टेलीफोन ठीक काम नहीं करते । श्रीमन्, हम प्रगति की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं तो आप इस पर विचार करिये कि कैसे इसको दुरुस्त किया जा सकता है, इसको आप देखें । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री महोदय को जानता हूँ, वे एक कर्मठ और निष्ठावान व्यक्ति है । मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि इमर्जेंसी के जमाने में जब गाड़ी आती थी तो लोग उसमें अपनी घड़ी मिलाया करते थे लेकिन उस वक़्त भी एस० डी० ग्री० में सुधार नहीं आ सका । मैं मानता हूँ कि श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व में, उनके मार्ग दर्शन में और आपकी तत्परता से इस दिशा में जो प्रयास चल रहे हैं वह सफल होंगे और निश्चित ही पर यह सुविधा लोगों को अच्छी तरह उपलब्ध होगी । महोदय, टेलीफोन के चार्ज भी बढ़ रहे हैं और इम्प्लाइज की संख्या भी बढ़ रही है । एक टेलीफोन आपरेटर को जितने काल करते पड़ते हैं उसका औसत मुश्किल से 15 पड़ता है क्योंकि इम्प्लाइज की संख्या बढ़ गई है । ट्रेड यूनियन के लोग इसके लिये लड़ते हैं । पहले जब वे 150 काल के करीब करते थे अब 14-15 काल करते हैं । हम भी चाहते हैं कि जो लोग नौकरी पर हैं उनकी सर्विस कंटीशन अच्छी हो लेकिन जो लेबर मूवमेंट में काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनका भी यह दायित्व है, उनको यह भी मोचना चाहिए कि समाज के प्रति उनका एक उत्तरदायित्व है, देश के प्रति उनका एक दायित्व है ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Bill by itself is a very innocuous one, and it is quite welcome. As the hon. Minister himself has stated, it is the response of the law to the various recommendations made by the committee of officers. I wholeheartedly support this Bill not only because it seeks to make certain changes to facilitate better working of the Telephone Department but also because the Minister has brought forward his Bill in this House, which will give us an opportunity to discuss the functioning of his Ministry, which we did not get for the last two or three years.

Sir, my task is made more difficult because this is one of the few departments, which is headed by a very efficient Minister and an able Deputy. I am not flattering Mr. Gadgil because he is a friend of mine. But my task is more difficult because I want to criticise the Department in whatever measure. But I hope he will take this as constructive criticism.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Welcome.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Sir, I will start with a joke. But I hope that the whole thing would not become a joke. Recently, I saw a cartoon in which a person was making a phone call and suddenly he fainted. Somebody wanted and asked what had happened. They said that he had got the correct number on the first dialling. So, this is the sort of experience which one gets when one talks about the telephone.

Today, Sir, a country's development is judged not merely by the industrial and other progress which it makes, not merely by the number of persons living above or below the poverty-line but also the all-round development is judged by the advancement which it has got in the field of communication. Today with advancing technology when the pace is so fast that every minute something or the other becomes obsolete, it is rather

independence, have not got a good infrastructure as far as communications are concerned. We are still having the outdated Strowger and the crossbar equipment which we bought at hand-me-down. I do not know the reasons behind it. Anyway, it is fortunate that we are going in for electronic and digital and other things. What pains me is that this country has lost a lot of foreign exchange. I can give you one concrete experience, that a multinational, the Singer sewing machine company, has shifted its Asia and regional headquarters from Delhi to Bangkok. The only reason why it shifted the Vice-President's office to Bangkok is that the communication facilities within this country and to other countries from this country were so bad, so much so that nearly 4 to 5 lakhs of rupees which was coming in as valuable foreign exchange were lost for us apart from the employment opportunities it provides for several locals. But that is just an example I am saving you.

Before taking up the two departments which are in this Ministry, this Bill concerns only the Telegraph Department. I would like to say, one of the best things they did when they came to power was the setting up of the H.C. Sarin Committee its report. But, Sir, I do not know many other committees, went into detail, submitted periodical reports and made as many as 434 recommendations. It is well over two years since the Committee submitted its report. But, Sir, I do not know what the stage is at which the Government is considering this, whether it has accepted all the recommendations or rejected some of the recommendations or the major ones are under process. Here I would like to ask the Minister whether one of the important recommendations made by his Committee, namely, bifurcating the P. and T. Department into two departments under two separate Secretaries and having two separate boards, is being considered or not. This will enable the Government to function in the most effective and efficient manner, and I commend this to the hon. Minister.

Sir, on the 21st of April, 1984 the Minister, while addressing a Press con-

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ference, said that the national Communication policy is under process and it is under finalisation stage and it will be presented before this session of Parliament. I would like to request him on this occasion to see that this national communication policy is placed before the House during this session so that we can consider it in detail. On this occasion, Sir, I congratulate the Government of India and particularly in the Department of Electronics when Mr. Sanjeevi Rao the other day mentioned in the telecommunication policy the private sector would be allowed to manufacture telephone equipment. This is one step by which the strictness of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 has not been adhered to, and this is a welcome step, and I hope that the Government will initiate steps to see that some of the big houses come forward to manufacture the necessary equipment in the private sector.

Sir, I will only make a passing reference to the Postal Department which is more efficient of the two departments. But it is also the Department which incurs the most losses. Actually, Sir, the Telephone Department has got a working expenditure of about Rs. 855 crores has result in a surplus of Rs. 440 crores during the last year according to the figures I have. And this Rs. 440 crores plus something more goes to the postal department. This, of course, is more efficient. Our country has come in for commendation as far as the postal services are concerned. There are as many as 1,45,000 post offices all over the country, 1100 crores letters, 17 crores telegrams, 15 crores money orders, 12 crores registered letters are being delivered every day. About nearly 9 lakh people are employed in the P and T department. I think this is the second most important department and employs a large number of people which is next to the Railways. They are doing this in a fairly efficient manner. But unfortunately the subsidies etc., involved in postcards and so many other things are so much that this department is in the red. So, once you bifurcate these two departments, you will know how you can gear up your

economy. Sir, on this account I will be failing in my duty, if I do not congratulate the Hon'ble Minister and his officials for recommending a massive amount of Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 13,000 crores investment during the Seventh Five Year Plan with a foreign exchange involvement of Rs. 1,850 crores should completely make everything new. I hope that the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission will approve of this. I do not know what will be constraint of funds.

I am sure the Hon'ble Minister who is quite energetic must press for this so that by 1990 the Postal Department would become efficient. Sir, one thing which strikes me as singularly good is both the Minister who is out-spoken as well as the Bill itself in the main objects and reasons accepts certain facts. Speaking at a meeting of P and T Week, Shri Gadgil observed among other things, I quote: "We are acutely aware of the fact that the quality of the service particularly the telephone system being provided is anything but satisfactory". Sir, I salute him for coming out with such a bold statement. Though he is a Minister the reason why he gets away is so conscious of the fact that he tries at least to make an honest effort to see that certain things are made right unlike certain others who are now dead and gone-of the dead speak nothing but good. But I would only like to say to that the main objects and reasons the Bill itself realises for the first time, so many Members here are speaking about the inflated STD calls. Once I was a victim of inflated STD calls. The matter is pending before the Hon'ble Minister. But it is not right forum for me now to ventilate my grievances. Although I locked my room an inflated STD bill has received by me from the Telephone Department. But anyway now he says in the Statement of Objects and reasons sub-para 3 of para 2: "Of late, unauthorised diversion and use of subscribers, telegraph lines for making trunk and STD calls is causing severe loss and damage to both bona-fide subscribers and the department". Here is a conscious acceptance of a fact which we all

know and I am sure after due investigation not only for the Members of Parliament but also for the numerous subscribers who have been put to great loss by the faulty metering and unauthorised defects, justice will be rendered.

Now, Sir, coming to some of the points about the Telephone Department itself, no doubt we have made a giant leap from 1947 when there were 83,000 telephones. But now we are having over 2.5 million telephones in the country today. You are also having ambitious plans in the rural areas that at least within 5 K.M. there should be a telephone which I hope will work. But, Sir, if you consider ourselves with foreign countries, the total number in terms of percentage, the number of telephones in rural areas is 0.4 per cent, 3 per cent in the cities and about 100 per cent in advanced places as compared to a density of 164 per cent in spread out areas—in foreign countries of over 200 per cent density in important places both in the West and the East. So, this is the comparative figure which I can give the Hon'ble Minister. So, our country should really go a long way to see that every subscriber gets a telephone at least within a reasonable time. Because today waiting list is over 5 lakh and by 1990 it is expected to go up to 10 lakhs and with the fast growing demand and business you can imagine how it will be. Sir, there is one thing about the telephones. My friend, Dr. D'Souza is not here; he is always against multinational pharmaceutical firms. But Dr. Najma Heptulla is there; she has also intimate knowledge about multinational pharmaceutical firms. I have a great doubt whether the multinational pharmaceutical concerns are hand in glove with the telephone department people because the surest way for a person to get a headache or to develop emotional instability is to go to the telephone and make a call so that they will be able to promote products like Aspirin and Sardon or later on if they have to go in for depressants or tranquillizers. I do not know. But I have such a suspicion and I hope the Minister will allay it.

Another thing about the working of the telephone department is the recovery of dues from the subscribers. I think I will be carrying coal to New Castle if I tell the Minister that the telephone dues from the Central Government in 1980-81 was Rs. 8.77 crores, in 1981-82 Rs. 12.76 crores and in 1982-83 Rs. 44.39 crores. These are dues which have not been collected. I do not know why you did not collect them: is it collection by one wing from the other wing of your own Government. The dues from the State Governments were Rs. 1.36 crores in 1980-81, Rs. 2.47 crores in 1981-82 and Rs. 9 crores in 1982-83. I do not know what is the difficulty in collecting your dues from the various State Governments. Now comes the saddest part—the dues from private subscribers. In 1980-81 they were Rs. 1.65 crores, in 1981-82 Rs. 2.66 crores and in 1982-83, Rs. 6.14 crores. All these dues go on mounting. I have given the figures from the Minister's own reply to a question in the Lok Sabha. And these bills are going on mounting. What is the reason for the non-recovery of these dues? This is a matter which has got to be gone into in great detail.

Sir, now I come to one or two important points regarding the functioning of the telephone department. One is that the Government has got to take an early decision about the use of cordless telephones. I think that the several pros and cons are being considered in the department itself and I am given to understand that the Minister himself is in favour of making its use legal. You know, both in Delhi and elsewhere, a lot of VIPs, businessmen and other people, who have either brought one or smuggled in one or bought one from Palika Bazar and other places, are using these cordless telephones. So why not make this a legal thing, by taking an early decision on this? Secondly, one of the persons connected with the World Bank, a Swiss economist called Dr. Walter H. Rambousch has said in an article that the World Bank and the International Development Association have advanced more than 700 million dollars in the last few years to over 40 countries for loans in relation to communications. I am sure

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that this is going to be a much bigger amount in the years to come. Why not we take advantage of this for improving our telephone system?

Sir, apart from these, there is only other matter which I would like to mention and that is about the functioning of the telephone system in the State of Tamil Nadu and particularly in Madras, from where I come. The Sarin Committee in 1981 observed that as compared to Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, Madras was the best. But I wish the Sarin Committee or some other committee appointed under Mr. Kohra or anybody in your department is asked now to go and see how the telephone system is now working in Madras. Once I felt very sorry to go to Calcutta because I could not make a call to the next room. But in the last one year, the telephone system in Madras has become so bad, so deplorable that you cannot describe it. The number of wrong calls that come from every telephone or go into every telephone is something fantastic. And they have established two new exchanges and they are going to have one electronic exchange. Secondly, Sir, I do not know why the Minister has been sleeping over the Telephone Advisory Committee which is supposed to be of help to the department. For the last more than one year, there is no Telephone Advisory Committee in Madras, so much so that many subscribers phone the members of the erstwhile committee and tell them; "What are you doing? You are all members of the Telephone Advisory Committee. Why don't you do something?" There are telephones which do not work for two or three or four days together. The Estimates Committee of Parliament had made a recommendation that if a telephone did not work for a certain period, a rebate should be given. I do not know at what stage of acceptance or consideration this recommendation is in the department. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, and in Madras in particular, the telephone system has become very bad. I invite the Minister to go incognito to Madras to any one of the residences and try to make a call and see

what happens. Please do something to tone up the Telephone Department as far as Madras and Tamil Nadu are concerned because the infrastructure and the technicians there are quite good; they cannot suddenly go wrong in a day. Something has got to be done on a war-footing.

Finally, I would like to inform the Minister and the Bill itself speaks of unauthorised diversion. There are a number of gangsters, particularly those who are connected with horse-racing in which the amount of betting involved is in crores of rupees, particularly in Bombay. The Minister perhaps himself would like to make an investigation or I can tell him separately about those persons because I do not want to bring them on record here—they have a parallel telephone system working for them. There is a hotline between one horse-race and another horse-race elsewhere, and they are also able to switch on and off the commentary. And they speak on your P&T phone for hours and hours without paying even as much as Rs. 100 or Rs. 200. How they are able to enjoy these special concessions, it is for you to look into. This must have already come to the knowledge of the Minister. I hope that under the energetic and dynamic Mr. Gadgil the Telephone Department will do well.

One final thing before I conclude and it is about the consumer and civic awareness. The consumer and civic awareness of the whole thing has gone up to a great detail. I would request the Minister not merely to end with these amendments to the Indian Telegraph Act. The Indian Telegraph Act is almost a century old and it contains very many obsolete references to railway companies which no longer exist. Section 6 of the Act refers to a railway company. That also needs amendment. Similarly there are other obsolete references here and there. Thanks to the consumer awareness and the several petitions filed in the High Court of Bombay, in the Supreme Court here, and so on, certain rules of yours also are very obsolete. Rule 443 of the Rules says that a telephone may be disconnected without prior notice if

a bill is not paid on or before the due date. But again Rule 421 requires the Divisional Engineer to give adequate notice before disconnecting. These are just the anomalies which I can point out straightway. Similarly, Section 412—for the benefit of most subscribers I may point out—requires the Divisional Engineer to maintain the instrument in good working order. One of the subscribers has filed a petition in the Bombay High Court. He said he was asking for damages at the rate of Rs. 500 a day because the Divisional Engineering is not adhering to this rule. I hope the Judge gives him a good verdict.

With these words I hope we will have a better future as far as the telecommunication system is concerned.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): Sir, actually this 100-year old Act is sought to be amended in a very perfunctory manner. As I could gather from the honorable Minister's speech, he was impelled to go in for this amendment because of certain directions given by his Secretarial staff or officers who said that these amendments are important because otherwise they cannot look after and ensure proper functioning of the telephones. The honourable Minister has only passed on what his officials probably conveyed to him; he has not even cared to glance at these amendments and see for himself that some of these amendments are not needed. Some of them give the idea that no mind was applied. There are so many things which should have been done in this Act but which have not been cared for. Therefore, to start with I would support the amendment moved by my learned colleague, and though he has not pressed—it is still open on the Table—I would support it so that a comprehensive measure can be brought and we do not deal with or tinker with these provisions after 100 years as if what the Britishers had done in 1885 holds good even till today except changing the enormity of the punishment meted out to certain offenders. I do not think that the Bill goes any step further. For instance, I will give a glaring instance. I hope I have not got a wrong copy. As I read it. I

find the following anomaly in clause 5 which reads as follows:

In section 7 of the principal Act,—

** ** **

(b) in sub-section (2),—

(i) after the word "line" wherever it occurs, the words "cable chamber, tower," shall be inserted.

Now, I tried to probe into this. In the Annexure we have extracts from the principal Act. There in sub-section (2) of section 7, I do not find the word "line" at all. This sub-section reads:

(2) Rules under this section may provide for all or any of the following among other matters, that is to say:—

(a) the rates at which, and the other conditions and restrictions subject to which, messages shall be transmitted within India;

** ** **

(c) the period for which, and the conditions subject to which, telegrams and other documents belonging to, or being in the custody of, telegraph officers shall be preserved; and

(d) the fees to be charged for searching for telegrams or other documents in the custody of any telegraph officer.

Now, I do not know where these words are to be added, because the word "line" is missing here.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: If you see (e) of the original Act...

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: I was reading the original Act. The word "line" is not there in this particular sub-section. This is the first instance.

Now let us go ahead and take (i) in sub-clause (c). It reads:

after the word "line", at both the places where it occurs, the words "cable chamber, tower," shall be inserted.

This is in respect of sub-section (4). But in sub-section (4) there is no word "line". Now, where are these words to be inserted, I do not know.

[Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta]

Now see (ii) which says "in clause (a), after the word "lines", the words "cable chambers, towers," shall be inserted". When there is reference to clause (a), there is no reference to clause (b). And clause (b) contains the word "line". It says:

"subjecting the Central Government to any obligation to provide any telegraph line..."

This has not been amended. Clause (a) has been included, but clause (b) has been excluded.

If we turn to section 4, we find after the word "line"...But there is no word "line" in the proviso.

Now let us turn to clause 4 in the Bill. This again I could not follow. Probably I may not be knowing proper English. It says:

In sub-section (1) of section of the principal Act, in the first proviso...

4 P.M.

"...for the word 'the Central Government may grant a licence', the words 'subject to such rules as may be made under this Act, the Central Government may be grant a licence' shall be substituted." Actually, it should be like this: "subject to such rules as may be made under this Act, the Central Government may grant..." and I think the word "be" was wrong and it could have been taken away. There is no idea of having this "be" which does not give any sense. On the contrary, if the construction could have been a little different and not in this manner as it has been done here which is a very poor drafting according to me. then the proviso should read like this:

"...provided that the Central Government may, subject to such rules as may be made under this Act..."

This would have been better. The word "may" could have been put at the very beginning after the words "the Central Government" instead of putting it at the last portion of the section as has been done in this Bill. It is very clumsily drafted and it is poor English and it is poor drafting. Then, we turn

to page 3. In the new clause (ab) which is sought to be added now, if we go through it, we will find that it does not make any sense. It reads: "the period for which and the terms and conditions subject to which such licence shall be granted;". It is a very poor drafting. So, I would suggest that we need not go through this Act in this manner as it gives the impression that we are rushing it through without applying our mind at all. You should scrutinise it and go through it thoroughly and see how best you can protect the telephone system with the provisions of the Act. I am saying this because I would like to bring to your notice another thing. Now, there is a provision in the Act which is sought to be amended. I am referring to section 7(2)(c). Now, sub-section (b) must have been in existence earlier, but later on must have been deleted. But, even in this amendment, you have not thought it proper to cover up this deficiency by having clause (b) instead of keeping the space vacant after (a). Now, we have still (c), but we do not have sub-clause (b)' Now, look at (c) which reads:

"the period for which and the conditions subject to which, telegrams and other documents belonging to, or being in the custody of, telegraph officers shall be preserved; and".

Now, according to this amending Bill, the word "telegraph" itself includes a telephone and if it also includes a telephone, how are you going to preserve a message given on a telephone? A message given over a telephone cannot be preserved, but a message given through a telegram can be preserved. There is a reason why a person sends a telegram. He sends it under his own signature so that the message ultimately is delivered or the message which he has sent can be connected to the person who has issued it. So, this is the idea behind it. But a telephone message cannot be preserved because there is no record of it and it is a thing of which there can be no record. I mean that it would be superfluous merely to say that the word "telegraph"

also includes "telephone". I do not know why you thought it wise to say that the word "telegraph" would also mean telephone. Telephone and telegraph are two different things. You can as well as say, it includes all the world and you could have said that the whole world would be known by the word "telegraph". So, this is not the proper way to do it and this should not have been done like this. It would have been better if you had put the word "telephone" at the appropriate places by which the idea of a telephone could be grasped and the idea of protecting the telephone system by certain provisions is clearly understood. So, the word "telephone" should have been put at appropriate places. Apart from this, according to the Bill, the words in clause 3, namely, "any appliance, instrument", are going to be replaced by words "telephone or any other instrument, appliance". So, there is a mention of the word "telephone" and, therefore, this word could have been added at the other places also rather than mentioning that wherever the word "telegraph" occurs, it would include telephone also. Now, there is another thing. This original Act talks of telegraph and wherever the telegraph system is involved, we have described it properly. The office building and the buildings appurtenant to it are all protected. Now, in the Explanation under 'Definitions', you say:

"A building or any premises or any part thereof shall not be deemed to be a 'telegraph office' within the meaning of this clause merely by reason of the location therein of a telephone provided to a subscriber."

I do not understand why the expression "provided to a subscriber" was added because they change the whole meaning of this explanation because there are places where you have telephone booths. Telephone booths are not provided to any subscriber. Yet an offence with respect to a telephone booth would be of the similar nature as an offence... (Time bell rings).

I have only spoken on the Bill. There are certain other points which I have also to make. So these provisions are very clumsy and the Bill should be re-

drafted after re-study and only then it should be gone through.

Now, speaking about other matters in regard to the telephone system in this country, though we have now a large and very complicated network spread throughout the country, yet we find that telephones in our major cities specially are mostly out of order. And when we make an enquiry as to what has gone wrong with the telephone we do not get any answer for it. After trying, trying and trying to get a number when we fail we try to seek the assistance of '199'. And when we seek the assistance of '199' we get the reply that the telephone seems to be out of order. I ask: What about 'seems to be out of order'? Either it is out of order or it is working. When you say, 'seems to be out of order at the moment', you are as such in the dark as I am in the dark. The answer is: we do not know; it is only the testing department which can tell you whether it is right or wrong and you may verify it from them. They give me the number. I ask the testing department, and the testing department say: we will communicate, we are making an investigation and we are trying to find out what is the fault and if there is any we will let you know. What is the use of '199' service if they give us the same response which we ourselves get after trying? How does it assist the subscriber? Therefore, in cases where the subscriber actually has some difficulty we should be able to get a definite answer through '199' especially when a group of telephones is out of order. I can understand if some local connection is disconnected; that can be understood. But sometimes a whole sector is out of order because that happens to be falling in a particular range; either it has rained too heavily or there has been a storm recently or some such disturbance; and we find that a whole group of telephones is out of order. Mostly we have cable system which are laid underground, and since they are well protected normally it is not easy for these cables to be tampered with or to be disturbed. Then in such a situation what goes wrong? Somebody should tell us. Experts in the department should also

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know so that corrective measures can be taken so that this malady is not repeated.

The other day I had to go to Calcutta. I was trying to get someone there to receive me at the Calcutta airport. But I could not get the number. Sometimes the ring was passing and sometimes ring was not even passing. I was trying from the Parliament House STD Service, which is here in Parliament House. Strangely enough, we have here the Directory of 1980, Parliament House STD Service has the Directory of 1980. They do not have the latest Directory. Ultimately when I reached Calcutta I found that the number had changed. I found that out of four telephones, two were out of order and the number had changed in the case of other two telephones. I could not find the new numbers because the Directory was old. These are minor things which can be corrected.

Companies are made and nobody attends to them. Probably the complaints of the Members of Parliament are listened to with some kind of promptness. But the complaints of ordinary people are not heard. For days together their telephones are out of order and the telephone service cannot be used by them. A person gets a telephone connection not because it is a luxury, but because it is a necessity. All his work is suspended for lack of telephone facilities. Telephone is not available to him for five to seven days at a stretch. You don't give him any rebate in the bill, not to talk about compensating him for the loss caused to him. The telephone people do not have any calculation for allowing him rebate for the days his telephone was out of order. The complaints are there and the Department knows that his telephone was out of order. There is no such system. It should be there. You don't want to fleece the subscriber. The subscriber pays through his hard-earned money. (*Time-bell rings*)

You say that you will spread the telephones to the rural areas. I don't think it is possible by 1990. If it is done by the turn of the century, then we may be having slight good luck. The work of laying cables in the villages has

not started yet. Then how is it possible to connect the whole country? Give us some practical things so that we may have a sense of satisfaction that the hon. Minister has said something and that at least 70 or 80 or 90 per cent or some part of it is being done. You cannot connect the whole rural area with the telephone system.

Now, the advanced electronic digital system is coming into vogue. I do not know why every time you dial, you get a wrong number. Digital system is a self-correcting system. Then why do we get wrong number? Is our equipment poor or is our maintenance poor? Or does someone keep on tempering with it? (*Time bell rings*) These things are worth giving attention to and I hope the hon. Minister will see to it that the subscriber has a sense of satisfaction and that he does not become jittery and panicky, running here and there to get a telephone connection. The standard of service to the subscriber should improve. This Act is good and we will not take much time to pass it. But there are no such provisions in this Bill which are urgent. They are not going to come into operation today. Therefore, send this Bill to a Select Committee in order to review the whole Act, to have separate provisions for telephones and telegraphs. Wherever joint provisions are necessary, you can do so. I do not subscribe to the view of having the telephones and telegraphs together. Therefore, I oppose it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the scope of this Amendment Bill is limited and in that much I do not have substantial differences with what the Government intends doing. The hon. Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, while moving the Bill, suggested that being a centenary event, this measure is significant, that it is an attempt by his Ministry to enable law to keep pace with technology, or words to that effect, if not exactly. This, to my mind, is a fine enough sentiment. But there are various pre-suppositions behind it. One great pre-supposition, of course, being that there is sufficient technology within the Department which stands as the 'T' part of P & T, to warrant such an assertion. A number of speakers have pointed out from this side and from the Treasury Benches also—

Sir, you yourself have experienced—that this telephone is not a convenience. The telephone system of India does not definitely reflect any kind of technological advancement. It does not even provide any basic satisfaction as an amenity, as a convenience. And it does not suffice for the Minister to say, Sir, that in 1911, at the time of Delhi Durbar the first telephone was introduced and up till 1923 there were no subscribers and then the Government had to induce people to become subscribers. I don't think, Sir, those are sufficiently convincing arguments.

Sir, under the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there is one particular portion. And, I think, this is a valid enough point, this is something about which a number of speakers citizens, and consumers of telephones have often pointed out earlier. And it merits to be quoted here, not in its entirety but certainly a portion of it. Under the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Minister says:

“Of late, unauthorised diversion and use of subscribers, telegraph lines for making trunk and STD calls is causing severe loss and damage to both bona fide subscribers and the department.”

Now, this is reasonable enough as far as it goes. It however raises a fundamental question a question of substance. The provision here, as contemplated, is to safeguard against unauthorised diversion. And it is about unauthorised diversion, unauthorised use of the facility that one is talking. If it were to fall within the ambit of 'law keeping pace with technology,' one would not have any substantial differences on the subject. But unauthorised diversion of a facility is one of the topics talked of here. Sir, the Minister has two legs, so to speak, not that we do not all have two legs. But the Ministry has two legs. One calls itself as 'P' and the other calls itself as 'T', and combined it becomes the Ministry of P & T. The 'P' portion of the Ministry—I would like to add my voice to what hon. Member from the AIADMK has said—is indeed one of the most efficient Departments, Indian Postal Services are indeed one of the most efficient in the world. With a population of near

about 570 million, near about 570 million letters have to be carried by our postal services. With addresses insufficiently written or illegibly written and the postmen poorly paid the letters continue to be delivered in the remotest parts of the country. And I say this with some sense of apprehension also. Sir, I am slightly superstitious in pointing out that this Department of the Government, which is the Postal Services is working so well because it is, perhaps, the only Department which continues to provide satisfactory service to all our countrymen and at very reasonable rates. I am afraid I cannot say that about the Department which is the other leg and which calls itself as 'Telegraph'.

Now, Sir, this particular portion—part 3—of the Statement of Objects and Reasons which was about diversion brings me to the Indian Post Offices Act, 1898, which is one of the two legs on which you are standing, the other leg being the Indian Telegraph Act, of 1885. Now, I have particular objection to section 26. It is not within the purview of this particular debate. But because these are the two legs of the Ministry. I have particular objection to section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act and to Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act. Now, Sir, section 26 and section 5 have persuaded a number of Members of both these House to introduce legislation in both Houses with a view to safeguarding the freedom of speech, the rights of the citizen, etc. We are informed that under the constitutional safeguard of article 19(2) some of these provisions, a right has been taken by the Government to censor mail and to tap telephone lines. I would submit to the hon. Minister that tapping telephone lines is also tantamount to 'unauthorised diversion,' more particularly when shelter is sought under article 19(2) of the Constitution. This would not be valid because article 19(2) talks of reasonable restraint and it is not given to the legislature or to the executive to first impose the restraint and then for itself alone to determine what is reasonable. The only body that can determine what is reasonable is a court of

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

law. These particular provisions, section 26 of the Indian Postal Act, and section 5 of the Telegraph Act, under which the Government continues to tap telephones, invade the privacy of a citizen and all this without even the citizen knowing that his privacy is being invaded. My mail may be censored without I being informed that there is a just and reasonable cause that meriting my mail to be censored, in which case there ought to be a law which informs me at least that my mail has to be censored. Similarly for telephones it should be mandatory. The Government may retain for itself the right to tap telephones but I do not think that the Government can possibly under any circumstances, assert that it can invade the privacy of a citizen treating him as an accused, not just as an accused, but as a criminal, without even the citizen knowing that his privacy is being invaded. This is a provision about which I have strong objections. Unauthorised diversion of telephones for purposes which result in a loss to the department and to the subscriber is a valid enough point but it extends itself to misuse of section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act. I would have preferred if the Minister had come forward with a comprehensive legislation setting right all these anomalies. He himself talked about this being almost a centenary even and, at the cost of repetition, he said that it is an attempt by law to keep up with technology. I am not sufficiently persuaded, Sir, that these are the motives which have gone behind the drafting of this particular amending Bill. I started by saying that personally I find that the debate being limited to what the amending provisions within this Bill are, the amendments that you wish to bring about, as to the definition of what telegraph is, aesthetic appeal about defacing the buildings, etc. are by themselves innocuous enough, fair enough, acceptable enough, but I would say that it is not a sufficiently comprehensive legislation because section 5 of Indian Telegraph Act of 1884 continues to retain the powers to invade a citizen's privacy without the citizen knowing what is being done. I, therefore, oppose the Bill. Thank you.

श्री राम नरेश कगवड़ा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय को महोदयता पर विश्वास करता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि वे जो सुधार करना चाहते हैं वे कर लेंगे। लेकिन अनुभव यह बताता है कि यह मजबूत लाइलाज हो गया है। चिट्ठी तो पहुँच जाती है चिट्ठी अगर छोड़ दी जाय तो यह विश्वास होता है कि अगर तीन दिन में न सही तो एक हफ्ते में पहुँच जायेगी, वैसे तो उदाहरण ऐसे भी हैं कि 12 साल, 24 साल में पहुँचती हैं, लेकिन आम तौर से तीन दिन से एक हफ्ते के अंदर चिट्ठी मिल जाती है, ऐसा अनुभव है। लेकिन तार के बारे में हमारा अनुभव बड़ा कटु है। मान्यवर, मैं उत्तर प्रदेश लोकदल का सेक्रेटरी हूँ और पहले भी संसोध का सेक्रेटरी था और मुझे आवश्यक बैठकों के लिये तार और चिट्ठी बराबर भेजनी पड़ती थी और अब भी भेजनी पड़ती है। आज तक एक भी तार, पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों से, जो भी बैठक के लिये हमने भेजा है, बैठक के पहले नहीं मिला है, चिट्ठी पहले मिली है। मुझे जो स्वयं प्रॉपर्टी तार आते हैं वे तारीख बीतने के बाद मिलते हैं। ऐसा क्यों होता है, यह तो माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे। मंत्री जी की तरह मैं भी एक राजनैतिक आदमी हूँ। उन्होंने बड़ा अच्छा कहा, चाहे मजाक में कहा, लेकिन सही बात कही कि आफिसर लोग हमारे बारे में क्या सोचते हैं। मंत्री जी ने कहा कि टेक्नीकल लोग सोचते हैं कि जो राजनैतिक लोग हैं वे सर्किट को सर्किट हाउस समझते हैं, ठीक ही है उनकी समझ। लेकिन असली रोग यह नहीं है। असली रोग काम-चोरी है और बेईमानी है। मैं यहाँ, इस सदन में 3 अप्रैल, 1982 को आया

या। मेरे घर पर टेलीफोन एक महीने बाद लग गया। मेरा घर एक टाउन एरिया में है वहां सिवाय थाने के कुछ नहीं है जहां कि बात की जा सके। ईश्वर न करे कि पुलिस वालों से बात करनी पड़े। लेकिन क्योंकि एक राजनैतिक कार्यकर्ता हूँ इसलिये मजबूरन थाने में जाना ही पड़ता है और बात करनी ही पड़ती है। क्योंकि हमारा विश्वास है कि वे आदमी हैं ही नहीं, वे राक्षस हैं। वहीं कोई लोकल काल हो सकती है। बाकी देवरिया हमका काल करनी पड़ती है और दो रुपया लगता है। मान्यवर, आज तक 6 रुपया हमारे ऊपर बिल आया है। दो वर्ष और कई महीनों में केवल तीन काल लर से देवरिया मिले हैं। तो इससे समझ लीजिए कि टेलीफोन कितना काम करता है। एक दिन मैंने गुस्से में कहा कि टेलीफोन बटवा दूंगा, चिट्ठी भी मिली कि हमारे घर में से टेलीफोन काट दिया जाय। इस पर मेरी पत्नी ने कहा कि टेलीफोन रहने दीजिए। नहीं मिलता है तो न मिले क्योंकि इससे कम से कम दुश्मन और चोर डाकू तो डरते हैं कि अगर लोकैल में आ जायें तो एम० पी० साहब के घर से टेलीफोन न हो जाय और पुलिस जल्दी न आ जाय। कम से कम इससे डरते तो हैं। डराने के लिये यह टेलीफोन काफी है। इसलिये घर पर टेलीफोन है। मान्यवर मैं क्या कहूँ। हमारे टेलीफोन, राजनैतिक लोगों के टेलीफोन या दूसरे लोगों के टेलीफोन बराबर खराब रहते हैं। लेकिन मान्यवर, जो लोग माहवारी देते हैं उनका टेलीफोन कभी खराब नहीं होता क्योंकि उनके यहां से माहवारी बंदी हुई है, वह रुपये उनको देते हैं, बख्शीश देते हैं। मैं स्वयं देवरिया में एक मित्र के यह बैठा था। काफी देर से टेलीफोन

मिलाने की कोशिश कर रहा था लेकिन नहीं मिला। मेरे मित्र ने कहा नेता जी आप रहने दीजिये, मैं मिलाता हूँ। वे टेलीफोन का रितीवर उठाकर डायल घुमाते हैं और उन्होंने कहा कि मैं फलाना बोल रहा हूँ जरा मिला दो और दो मिनट भी नहीं लगे कि टेलीफोन मिल गया और मैं बात करके चला आया।

मान्यवर, टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट में इतना ही नहीं है, हमारे महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र जी का इतना रुपया बिल क्यों आया? मान्यवर, इसलिए आता है कि टेलीफोन पर बात कर लेते हैं। आधा-आधा तय है। मान लीजिये 10 रु० का बिल आता है तो तो तय हो गया है कि पच रुपया देंगे धानी अढ़ाई तुम्हारा हिस्सा और अढ़ाई रुपया हमारा हिस्सा। अढ़ाई उनको चला जाता है और अढ़ाई रुपया छूट जाता है और इस तरह से घाटा लगता है या जो बिल बनता है मजबूरी में वह दूसरे के टेलीफोन पर जाता है। मिश्र जी ने कहा और मैं भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि कि एम० पी० का किस्सा आया था जो बेचारे सालभर अमरीका में रह गये और तीन-चार हजार का बिल आगया जबकि उनके ताला बन्द था घर बन्द था। तो यह सारा काम जो हो रहा है वह इसको नष्ट करने के लिए ही हो रहा है। इतना ही नहीं कार्य-प्रणाली में एक और खराबी है। हम जहाँ जहाँ जाते हैं और नये नये आविष्कार होते जा रहे हैं। उन सारी चीजों को हम यहां ला तो रहे हैं लेकिन उनका मेनटेनेंस करने लिए एश्वर कंडीशन कमरे चाहिये एश्वर कंडीशन वातावरण चाहिये। यूरोप में तो एश्वर कंडीशनर की आवश्यकता ही नहीं है लेकिन यहां तो उसके लिए जरूरत है। बिजली का जो हाल है वह तो आप जानते ही हैं। पुरानी पद्धति

[श्री रामनरेश कुशवाहा]

का जो टेलीफोन था वह मिलता भी था और खराब भी बहुत कम होता था। आज वह रोज खराब हो रहा है। ठीक है आप नयी टेक्नीक लाइये सब कुछ लाइये लेकिन उसके मुताबिक उसके मेनटेनेंस का भी प्रबंध कीजिए। मान्यवर, कम से कम शहर में नयी टेक्नीक खूब लगाइये लेकिन देहात में जो पांच किलोमीटर का आपने लक्ष्य रखा है वहां यही पुरानी पद्धति की ही लगा दे तो कम से कम देहात में मिल जाया करेगा। आप नये आविष्कार का लाभ उठाइये, अफसरों को भी खूब प्रसन्न करें और खूब खाने-पीने की छूट दे दीजिये क्योंकि मान्यवर इस काम के बिगड़ने में और सरकारी काम की खराबी में एक सब से बड़ा कारण यूनियन भी हैं और अब हम लोग बड़े क्रांतिकारी और समाजवादी हैं हम लोग यूनियनों का विरोध भी नहीं कर सकते लेकिन यह भी सही है कि एक भी यूनियन ऐसी नहीं है जिसमें चोर और बेईमान और धूर्त और सरकारी धन का नुकसान करने वाले कमचारियों पर अगर कार्यवाही हो तो मुकदमा उसके खिलाफ न लड़े और उन्होंने सिफारिश न की हो न लिखा हो। जितने भी बेईमान हैं उन्हीं को इससे लाभ होता है ईमानदार कर्मचारी मार खाता रहता है। तो रोग एक जगह नहीं है बहुत जगहों पर है इसका इलाज वही न कहीं आपको ढूँढना पड़ेगा। और एक बात मैं आपसे कहता हूँ कि यह विभाग हमारा व्यापारिक विभाग है। सेवा तो है ही। आप घाटा पूरा करने के लिए हर चीज का दाम बढ़ाते जाते हैं और दाम बढ़ा कर के घाटा पूरा करते हैं, वेतन भी देते हैं, बोनस भी देते हैं, पता नहीं क्या क्या करते हैं। आखिर

हम ऐसा व्यापार करे ही क्यों जो घाटा देता हो और अगर यह घाटा देता है तो जो लोग संगठित हो कर सारे देश का सत्यानाश कर रहे हैं, महाराज, उनको घाटे और मुनाफे दोनों का सांझीदार बना दीजिये। मुनाफा कमाओ तो बोनस लीजिये, मुनाफे में हिस्सा लीजिए, जितना मन करे उतना लीजिये लेकिन अगर व्यापार की और संस्थान की बांधिया बैठा देते हैं तो तनख्वाह घटाइये, उसका इन्तजाम आप करिये। यह एक तरफा मुहब्बत कब तक चलेगी। कब तक आप गरीबों को मार मार कर टेक्स वसूल कर के इन लोगों का पेट भरते रहे और सेवा के नाम पर तुम्हारी दुर्गति होती रहे। इसलिए मान्यवर, आप अपनी नीति में थोड़ा सुधार कीजिये। हम लोग भी सुधार कर रहे हैं। इसीलिए मैंने आपसे कहा कि कोई यूनियन भ्रष्टाचारियों की मदद छोड़ कर सदाचारियों की मदद नहीं करती। यह हमारा चार्ज है। अगर यही रवैया रहा तो इस देश में 3.35 लाख सरकारी और गैर सरकारी नौकर हैं यह पहले का रिकार्ड है आज कुछ बढ़ गये होंगे यदि इन के परिवार के सदस्यों को भी ले लिया जाए तो लगभग 17 करोड़ इनको संख्या होगी, मुल्क की पूरी आबादी का एक चौथाई हिस्सा है जिनके हाथ में इस देश की नकल है। जिसके लिए सारा कानून है, सारा प्रशासन है और खेती, नौकरी, व्यापार सारा का सारा, सब पर इन्हीं का अधिकार है और ये जब चाहें आपको भी ले डूबेंगे, देश को ले डूबेंगे और ले करके डूब ही रहे हैं। तो कहीं न कहीं रोक लगाने का इंतजाम करिये। निर्ममता से कुछ काम करिए तभी कुछ होगा। टेलीफोन उठाया जाता है और टेलीफोन पर झगड़ा हो रहा है। अब क्या हमने

अगड़ा सुनने के लिए टेलीफोन उठाया है या अपनी बात करने के लिए ? लेकिन इन अगड़ों से फुटने नहीं है। कभी कभी घंटी बजती रहती है और कोई नहीं आता (समय को घंटी) कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है और घंटी बजती है... (वज्रघात) लेकिन वह घंटों बजती रहती है, कोई उठने वाला नहीं है। इस घंटी को तो खैर हम लोग सुन लेते हैं। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि उस घंटी को सुनने वाले का भी प्रबन्ध कीजिए और उठाने वाले का भी प्रबन्ध कीजिए। इन्हीं चन्द शब्दों के साथ मैं आशा करता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी की सहाय्यता से सुधार होगा और वे कुछ तो सुधार करेंगे नहीं तो मैं अपने भ्रमण में टोका टोकी की ओर भी आन भी इस राय का हूँ कि अगर सुधार नहीं होगा तो स्ट्रोक नाहब के शब्दों में हम लोगों के घरों का टेलीफोन कटवा दें ताकि न रहे बांभ और न बजे बांभुरी। दिन भर हमारा चौपट होता है। हर घर से चले तो एक्सप्रेस बस मिलने पर एक घंटे में और वापस भी एक घंटे में देवरिया से हो सकते हैं और इस प्रकार दो घंटे में काम करके लौट सकते हैं। लेकिन टेलीफोन मिलने के इंतजार में दिन दिन हो जाता है। फिर दूसरे दिन मम्बूर होकर देवरिया जाना पड़ता है। अगर यही हाल रहेगा तो उभना क्या फायदा रहेगा ? अगर कुछ कर सकें तो मान्यवर, करिए नहीं तो यह तो है ही कि बड़ा विकास हो रहा है, टेलीफोन का नम्बर बढ़ रहा है, आप पांच किलोमीटर पर पहुंचा देंगे, सब कर देंगे। लेकिन सब करने के बाद होगा क्या ? वही ताक के तीन पात। वही कार्य प्रणाली और वही चीज सारी रह गयी तो इसका कोई मतलब नहीं होगा। इन्हीं चन्द शब्दों

के साथ, जयहिंद।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) :

मान्यवर, मंत्री महोदय ने बिल को पेश करते हुए स्वयं कहा कि इसका सीमित उद्देश्य है और इसी लिए मेरा भी सीमित ही विरोध इसमें हो सकता है। पहली बात तो यह है कि मैं इस बिल का वह जो टेम्परेरी आफ वोटिंग बगैर के लिए जो प्रोविजिव सेशन है उसके बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। अगर एक वर्ष से तीन वर्ष की सजा देने से परिस्थिति में सुधार हो जाये तो मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि तमाम लाइफ ट्रांसमोर-टेशन कर दिया जाये और देख लीजिए सुधार होता है या नहीं होता है। समस्या यह नहीं है। जैसे हमारे मित्र कुशवाहा जी कह रहे थे कि तमाम के तमाम कर्मचारी जार हैं और दस उन्ही के परिवार के लिए आप देश चला रहे हैं, अगर यही बात रहती तो कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा और स्वयं कुशवाहा जी ने कहा कि अभी भी पत्र दूर गांव के लोगों को मिल जाते हैं, वह कैसे है ? कोई दूसरा विभाग बता दीजिएगा जहां बरोड़ों की संख्या में पत्र या कुछ वितरण होता हो और घूस नहीं मांगी जाती हो ? एक डाकिये को छोड़ करके कोई भी विभाग बता दीजिए जहां मिलियन्स की हैडलिग होती हो और घूस का चार्ज नहीं आता हो ? अगर ऐसा और विभाग हो राजनैतिक पार्टियों सहित तो मैं अभी भी जानने को इच्छुक हूँ। इसलिए मैं आपसे कहूंगा और जैसा अभी माननीय सदस्य सुकोमल सेन जी ने भी कहा, कि उस पर हम लोगों का एप्रीहेन्शन है कि उसका इस्तेमाल मजदूर अन्दोलन को कुचलने के लिए होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वे मदन को आश्वासन दें कि जो सही में भ्रष्टाचारी हैं उनके लिए

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

तो इस्तेमाल किया जाये, उस पर हमारा कोई विरोध नहीं है—और मैं उस बात से सहमत हूँ कि हर विभाग की तरह यहाँ पर भी भ्रष्टाचार है यह कोई अपवाद नहीं है, बल्कि भ्रष्टाचार और भगवान यही दो वस्तुएँ हैं जिनके हर जगह रहने का दावा किया जा सकता है, बाकी के बारे में पता नहीं है। तो यहाँ भी है अतः हो सके तो आप सदन को यह आश्वासन दीजिए कि मजदूरों को सताने के लिए उस इलाज का इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जायेगा। कम से कम हम आपसे इतनी अपेक्षा करने हैं। भ्रष्टाचार से लड़ने के लिए मैं आपसे कहना चाहूँगा कि दो हा रास्ता हैं। एक तो साइंटिफिक रास्ता अखितयार हो जिससे कि आप पकड़ सकें। दूसरा रास्ता यह है कि ट्रेड यूनियनों से इस मामले में भी सहयोग लिया जाये। अभी तक ट्रेड यूनियन से आप सहयोग लेते हैं, तनख्वाह बढ़ती के सवाल पर, या सुविधाओं के सवाल पर बातचीत करते हैं। उस उद्योग की, या कारोबार की तरक्की के लिए बहुत विचार किया जाता रहा है।

मैं ट्रेड यूनियनिस्ट के नाते आपसे अपेक्षा करूँगा कि आप इसमें उनको ज्यादा सहयोग दीजिए। टेक्नीकल बात की जब मैंने चर्चा की, तो अभी मैं आपके विभाग के मजदूरों की कानफ्रेंस में कटिहार में था, तो उन मजदूरों ने आपके विभाग के बारे में बताया कि पूरे बिहार के अंदर जितने पी०सी०ओ० हैं, पब्लिक काल आफिसेज हैं, उनमें भी 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा डिफेंड है। आप टैम्पिंग आफ कार्ज के लिए

तीन वर्ष की सजा देते हैं और अगर आपके टोटल पब्लिक कार्ज के आफिस या 50 प्रतिशत डिफेंड है, मशीन काम नहीं करती हैं, तो उसके लिए क्या एक दिन की भी सजा कोई पायेगा, या नहीं? यह हम लोग जानना चाहेंगे।

तो इसी तरह से मैं यह भी कहूँ कि उन मजदूरों ने मुझे बताया कि जब से यह माइक्रो-वेव सिस्टम हुआ है, तो उसमें आपके रेवेन्यू में भी ज्यादा घाटा आ गया है। यह मजदूरों का कहना था। आप इसको जाँच करवा लीजिए। यह बिहार के लिए उन्होंने कहा था, सारे देश के मुतल्लिक नहीं कहा था। आप इसकी छानबीन करवा लीजिए कि क्या इसकी स्थिति है? लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि कर्मचारियों में अच्छे और बुरे लोग भी हैं, जैसे हर सभा में, हर सोसाइटी में, हर जगह हैं और काफी लोग इस बात से तकलीफ में हैं, राजकीय क्षेत्र के लोग कि कुछ लोगों के भ्रष्टाचार के कारण पूरे का पूरा राजकीय क्षेत्र बदनाम हो रहा है और उसका इलाज यह नहीं है कि ठेके पर दे दिया जाए, या प्राइवेट कम्पनी को दे दिया जाए। तब, मान्यवर, वर्तमान सरकार को ठेके पर लगाना पड़ेगा जितना भ्रष्टाचार और घाटा सरकारी व्यवस्था में चल रहा है।

तो, यह कोई सलूशन नहीं है और न ही यह कोई डेमोन्स्ट्रेशन तरीका ही है जिससे कि हम कर सकते हैं। तो इसीलिए खामियों के संघर्ष के लिए आप मजदूर संगठनों से सहयोग लीजिए। इस बात के लिए मैं आपसे अपेक्षा करूँगा कि इसमें यह किया है।

बाकी बातें, जो टेक्नीकल इम्प्रूवमेंट की हों, तो प्रारम्भिक अवस्था में टीथिंग ट्रबल हरेक देश में होती है और अपने

ग में भी हो रही है, जहां वैज्ञानिक त्वि हम लोग धीरे-धीरे चाह रहे हैं। ह निश्चित बात है। टेलीफोन के मले में मैं अपना अभी का अनुभव ता रहा हूं। पिछले दिनों में रेडियो हमने समाचार सुना कि बिहार के छ हिस्से में बहुत जोर से बाढ़ आई और मधुबनी कट-आफ हो गया है म्पूर्ण बिहार से। लगातार कोशिश में दो दिनों से, लेकिन कोई भी लीफोन से सम्पर्क नहीं हो सका और गहे सम्पर्क नहीं हुआ, यह बात आपका वभाग नहीं बता सका।

तो यह ब्रैड वर्कमैनशिप जो है इसका इलाज पेनेलाइजिंग सर्कशन ही र्फ नहीं है। इसका इलाज है कि र्से इम्प्रूवमेंट किया जाए। निश्चित षप से सरकारी विभागों में और अन्यत्र भी ब्रैड वर्कमैनशिप का एक बहुत बड़ा रोग अभी हो गया है जिससे इनफिजैसी और सेवा के काम में खास करके बहुत ज्यादा इनफिजैसी लोगों के काम में आ रही है।

इसीलिए मैं समझता हूं कि उस पहलू पर भी आपको जोर देना चाहिए और दूसरी बात जो है, वह रांग नम्बर्ज के मिल जाने की है। इसका तो कोई टेक्नीकल रास्ता निकालना पड़ेगा। यह क्यों होता है, यह तो डिजिटल सिस्टम में क्यों होता है और कैसे यह हो जाता है, इसके लिए तो कोई आदमी जिम्मेवार नहीं है। कुशवाहा जी कह रहे थे कि कर्मचारी ऐसे करते हैं, लेकिन मशीन तो घूस नहीं लेती है, तो फिर आटोमैटिक सिस्टम में क्यों रांग नम्बर्ज ज्यादा आ जाते हैं?

तो इसके लिए इसकी जांच वैज्ञानिक तरीके से, वैज्ञानिक ढंग से ही इम्प्रूवमेंट की जा सकती है। तो मैं आपसे

अनुरोध करूंगा कि जैसे अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है, हमारे विहार में भी और खास कर पटना शहर में टेलीफोन को अत्यंत ही खराब स्थिति है, दिल्ली शहर भी इसका अपवाद नहीं है और मंत्री महोदय स्वयं भी इसको जानते होंगे, लेकिन हम समझते हैं, कि किसी समस्या का निदान सिर्फ जान लेने से ही नहीं होता है, उसके लिए आवश्यक साधन जुटाने की बड़ी आवश्यकता होती है।

इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस इम्प्रूवमेंट के लिए टेक्नीकल और वर्कमैनशिप कोऑपरेशन, दोनों का सहयोग लेकर के स्थिति को और भी अच्छा किया जाये और इसकी काफी गुंजाइश है। अपने देश में भी इसको किया जा सकता है, मैं ऐसा विश्वास रखता हूं और मैं चाहता हूं कि इस विश्वास के साथ काम किया जाए। अभी जो आपने बिल सदन के सामने लाया है उसका बहुत ही सीमित उद्देश्य है वह बहुत पुराना एक्ट है और उसके इन संशोधनों से उसका निराकरण निकल जायेगा ऐसी बात नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी मैं एक कानून के बारे में कहूंगा जो 29 सैक्शन है उसके बारे में आपसे अपेक्षा करूंगा और एक बार फिर आपसे अनुरोध करूंगा कि आप सदन को आश्वस्त करिए और सदन के जरिए पूरे कर्मचारियों को कि इनका दुरुपयोग नहीं होगा और सही मायनों में जो ट्रेड यूनियन करते हैं उसको सताने के लिए इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं होगा।

श्री बी० सत्यानारायण रेड्डी (अन्ध प्रदेश) : वाइस चेयरमैन सर, जो विधेयक हमारे सामने है इंडियन टेलीग्राफ (अमेंड-मेंट) बिल, 1983, इसके पीछे जो मकसद है, जो एडिटमेंट आफ अब्जेक्ट्स और रीजनज बताया गया है इसका तो स्वागत

[श्री बा० नरनाथराय रेड्डी]

है। लेकिन इसका जो इम्प्लिमेंटेशन होना था इसके अन्दर जो छूटा मॉटी तब-दीनिया आई गई है उसके बारे में मुझे कुछ बताया है। लेकिन एक्ट के कलाज के बारे में कहने से पहले टेलीग्राफ और टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट के फंक्शन के बारे में मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। सब से पहले मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि दिनांक-दिनांक बड़ी संख्या में टेलीफोन बढ़ते जा रहे हैं, उनकी संख्या बढ़ रही है और तकनीकी हो रही है, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय से चाहूंगा कि संख्या में बढ़ रही है किन्तु कोई टेलीफोन काम नहीं कर रहा है, फंक्शन नहीं कर रहा है, यह सभी सदस्यों ने कहा है कि और आप भी जानते हैं और कहीं भी कोई भी टेलीफोन सही ढंग से काम नहीं करता है, चाहे वह दिल्ली हो, हैदराबाद हो या हिन्दुस्तान का कोई और शहर हो, कहीं भी टेलीफोन ठीक ढंग से काम नहीं करता। यह स्थिति आज है। इसके बारे में कई बार मंत्री महोदय, यह मैं आपसे बोल रहा हूँ, आप मेरी बात सुनिए, सुनिए-सुनिए, तो मेरे कहने का मतलब यह था कि इस समस्या के बारे में इस सदन में कई बार बहस हुई। आपसे पहले, अब तो वह नहीं रहे। टेलीफोन साहब तब यह बात आर्या था। उन्होंने कहा था कि अगर टेलीफोन फंक्शन नहीं करता तो इसे वापस कर दो। सदन में उन्होंने यह बयान दिया था। अगर ऐसा ही है तो टेलीफोन लगाने और रखने की क्या जरूरत है। आप क्या जवाब देंगे मुझे मालूम नहीं है। तो परिस्थिति यह है। इसको सुधारना चाहिए। कैसे सुधरेगा? वह तो सभी मेम्बरों ने कहा है, दूसरी चीज यह है कि आपने स्टेटमेंट आफ आब्जेक्शन में यह कहा है, यह बहुत ही ठीक है।

“(3) Of late, unauthorised diversion and use of subscribers' telegraph lines for making trunk and STD calls is causing severe loss and damage to both bona fide subscribers and the department.”

यह ठीक है। मुझे कोई ज्यादा इस संबंध में कहना नहीं है। लेकिन मेरे फोन के बारे में कहना है कई मेम्बरों ने भी कहा है, इस वक्त मेरे फोन का बहुत बड़ा बिल आया है। मैं आपको लिख रहा हूँ, लेकिन अब तक जवाब नहीं आया। अगस्त, सितंबर, अक्टूबर, नवम्बर, दिसम्बर, 1983 इन महीनों में करीब साल भर में भी मुझे जितने काल करने चाहिए उनसे डबल आया है और कभी कभी 4-5 हजार का बिल आता है। इसके बाद दो महीने में जनवरी-फरवरी, 1984 में 11 हजार का बिल मेरा टेलीफोन लांक एंड को में था, यहां इन्क्वायरी आफिस में गया अपने जो एनेक्सी में आफिसर हैं, बताया कि गलत है, क्या करना चाहिए। मैं जब हैदराबाद गया तो इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ, कोई यूज नहीं हुआ और इसके वावजूद भी 11 हजार का बिल का बिल आया। यह समस्या सभी के साथ है। आपको पता लिख रहा हूँ, आज तक उसका कोई जवाब नहीं है और डिपार्टमेंट को लिख रहा हूँ कोई जवाब नहीं है और हर महीने हमारे बिल में कटता जाता है, तीन हजार के करीब, अभी तक तो कटा है और कितना बचाया निकलेगा? तो मेरी समझ में नहीं आता यह टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट में कहाँ गलती है? इसके बारे में कई बार सदन में भी जिक्र हुआ है। मुझे याद आता है चार-पांच साल पहले श्री रहमत अली साहब ने भी जब इस बात का जिक्र किया था, उसको 25 हजार रुपये का बिल आया था मैंने यकीन नहीं किया। उसका क्या हुआ, पता नहीं। 25 हजार का क्या हुआ

फिर रफा-टफा हुआ है या नहीं । यह जो टेलीफोन सिस्टम है, इसमें मियां हैं । जो आज गलत सिस्टम है, मैं जो खामियां हैं उनको ठीक करना मैं उसमें ज्यादा तफसिल में न लेता हूँ जो मौजूदा एक्ट है, विधेयक इसके दो-तीन क्लोजेज की तरफ पैका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ । इसमें "5" पर है—

"27A. (1) If any person diverts or causes to divert any telegraph line by the employment of any device, appliance or other means, intending thereby to fraudulently use the telegraph of any subscriber without any payment, he shall be punished with imprisonment or a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

"18. In section 24 of the principal Act, for the words "one year", the words "three years" shall be substituted.

"17(d) for the words "with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, the words "with imprisonment or a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both" shall be substituted".

इ "डी" में है । इस 17 "डी" में आपने बताया फाइन कितना है और फ्लैटने परियड का पनिशमेंट का है । 27-ए" में आपने फाइन तो कहा, केन इसमें सौ होगा, हजार होगा, दो हजार होगा, इसका इसमें कोई जिक्र नहीं । फाइन का जिक्र है, लेकिन कितना फ्लैट होना यह नहीं है । परियड तो आपने बताया है, लेकिन फाइन का जिक्र ही है । यह इसमें त्रुटि है । तो यह जो विधेयक हमारे सामने है, इसका मकसद ठीक है । लेकिन यह कंप्रहेन्सिव स्ट, विधेयक होना चाहिए और जैसा मेहता जी ने कहा यह विधेयक क्लियर ही है, ठीक ढंग से नहीं है । तो ठीक से बनाने के लिए इसको सेलेक्ट मेट्री को रेफर कर देना चाहिए ।

यह मेरी राय है । जहां तक दूसरे विषयों के संबंध में वह सभी सदस्यों ने कहा है और आज के Unstarred Question के जवाब में से पढ़ देता हूँ । मेरे पास यह है,

"The following steps have been taken to check the possibility of such malpractice :—

इसने आपने कुछ स्टेप्स लेने का सुझाव दिया है --

(i) Individual subscribers' meters in the telephone exchange are seal-locked and the Meter Room kept locked to prevent unauthorised entry;

(ii) Entry to the main distribution frame room is restricted to only authorised persons;

(iii) The meter readings are recorded on fortnightly basis and any unusual variation in the calling pattern is examined by testing the meter and associated equipment;

(iv) Fortnightly meter readings can be supplied to desiring subscribers at a nominal cost;

(v) Flying Squads have been formed in the Metropolitan Telephone Districts to carry out surprise checks of meters, associated lines and equipment;

(vi) Vigilance staff has been posted in major and minor Telephone District as well as in the Telecommunication Circles to carry out surprise visits and inspections;

(vii) Indian telegraph Act is being amended to make unauthorised tempering of lines as a cognizable offence."

तो यह ठीक है, यह अमेंडमेंट के बारे में कहा । यह जो आपने पढ़ाया सुझाव दिया । यह अमल में है भी या नहीं या अभी करने वाले हैं, मुझे मालूम नहीं है और अभी तक जो कोई मालूम नहीं पड़ता, न कोई इंस्ट्रक्शन्स हैं, न कोई सेपरेट मीटर रीडिंग है । इसके पहले भी कई बार जब यहां इस समस्या के बारे में बहस हुई तो सेपरेट मीटर का सुझाव

[श्री वी० सतनारायण रेड्डी]

दिया गया कि हरेक सबसक्राइवर की सेपरेट मोटर रीडिंग होगी। क्या होगी, इसकी तफसील जानकारी न सदन को है और न जनता को जानकारी है। वैसे यह विधेयक जो हमारे सामने है, इसका उद्देश्य ठीक है। लेकिन इसको किस ढंग से अमल में लाया जाय। इसके लिए इसकी वीडिंग ठीक करनी होगी। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इसको सेलेक्ट कमेटी के सुपुर्द किया जाए।

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Sir, my good friend, Mr. Gadgil, started his speech with a reference to Graham Bell who invented the telephone. All I would like to say is, Mr. Bell must be moving in his grave if he saw the conditions of telephones in the country. In foreign countries they say there are three ways of communication: One is telephone, the other is telegraph and the third is 'tell a woman.' In this country the first two do not work. The only sure way is the last one. Whereas the late Mr. Stephen's motto was, when the telephone does not work, you return the instrument. But the motto of Mr. Gadgil is "Let the dead telephones lie dead". Sir, in my State, in Bombay there are today over 50,000 telephones which are not working. Come the monsoon, in most parts of the city the telephones stop working. And again this monsoon is no exception. Nothing whatsoever has been done. There were so many complaints given last year. But, this time, instead of there being improvement, while last time only 30,000 phones went down, as the Communications Ministry has done a lot of hard work, now 50,000 phones have gone down. They will of course say that the telephones have increased in Bombay.

Another thing. I congratulate the Government. The electronic exchanges have come. And also electronic bugging devices have come. In Bombay the latest Japanese exchange which has been brought, has got a special bugging device. Normally your phone and my

telephone is bugged. I do not ring up from my phone. I probably go to my neighbour's phone, and I ring up. But today the electronic telephone system has the perception of your voice. You might ring from any of the half a lakh telephones in Bombay. Your voice will be recorded. So in Bombay, if your telephone is working, if all the telephones are working, anywhere you go and ring up, your voice will be taped. To that perfection the communication has brought the bugging device also. So, in Bombay at least we cannot talk too much.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are they actually so efficient?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I would also like to point out the rude behaviour in most exchanges, enquiries, 197 if you ring up or 199. I do not know why. Especially I have seen in Bombay, Pune and Delhi. You ring up the enquiries. It takes more than five minutes to get the number you want. I do not know why that part of it cannot be rectified. I am sure, efforts will be made in this direction.

I am also quite surprised, in between just a month-and-a-half back, the trunk-call rates have been increased. The concession period which was from 8-00 p.m. till 8-00 a.m. has now been made something like 11-00 p.m. to 6-00 a.m. That is ridiculous. I am sure nobody rings up during that time. I do not know why that was done. If at all you want to make any changes, please make them at the time of the Budget. Please do not bring these extra doses again and 5 p.m. again. The dead phones in many areas are due to whims and fancies of VIPs. Sir, you must have seen the incident in Gulmohar Park, New Delhi that Mrs. Tej Bachchan mother of Mr. Amitab Bachchan was very upset with the telephone cabinet box installed adjacent to her house. There all the P&T workers used to work, sit, and made telephone calls from that cabinet box. P&T workers also used to repair the cabinet box now and then. Then she complained and so naturally got it shifted from there. She was a VIP and the P&T took imme-

diate steps to shift it from there and during the course of one week work all the telephones around Gulmohar Park area went out of order or dead. So, I think, this VIP interference should not be listened to by the Ministry.

The constant complaints are of over-billing, wrong numbers, etc. In spite of the phones being dead, the rent is charged on them. My concrete suggestion to the Ministry would be that on every bill there must be a general 25 per cent reduction and that would be right sort of bill. Sir, because of various factors I have stated earlier, I myself was a victim for the last one year. I have not received my salary. Sir, you may wonder what is the connection between my salary and the telephone calls. But, Sir, I have been so much over-billed although I am out for nine months in a year. I am in Delhi for three months I think I am entitled to certain free calls as M.P. But even then I do not know how the metre keeps running and gets an inflated Bill and the amount is being deducted from my salary. I have not received my salary for the past one year. I do think that I shall receive for the next three or four years when I will be in the Rajya Sabha. If this can happen to a Member of Parliament—God may help the rest of the subscribers in the country.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): If you are not there, Mr. Sharad Pawar is always there to telephone. So why you should blame the Communications Minister or his Department.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Miss Khaparde, he is supporting you.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: If at all I make any telephone calls they are to Miss Khaparde. She knows about it and that also once in three or four days.

As far as the post offices are concerned, again I would like to speak on the censorship aspect of it which is indeed very draconian and I do not think it was

done to such a large extent. It was done in Hitler's movement. Sir, you might have read an article written by Mr. V.E. Arunachalam, Member P&T Board in *Statesman* dated 1st January, 1984, page 846 of 1982 issue of Delhi Directory. He has pointed out there was a column with a telephone number of a "Postal Research Centre" under the general heading of P&T Department. Sir, what is the Postal Research Centre? If you ask the P&T people about this they themselves do not know what it is? But that is not where the P&T people work. But that is a place where the intelligence department is housed and that is a place where all the letters meant for leaders of the Opposition parties are opened. Sir, such centres exist not only in Delhi but there are 11 other centres in the country where such infringement of privacy is totally against the law of the land is being done. Any right thinking person will definitely denounce it. With this I would only like to say that this amendment of the Act was very much overdue. But the stiff measures which are being put in the Bill are definitely necessary because there is no way otherwise to curb much of the misuse of Government property as well as of telephones. But I would only like to say that this facility should not be misused. But I have my grave doubts, I have a feeling, that it is going to be misused and, therefore, I oppose the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI): Mr. V. Gopal-samy. Not here. Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar.

श्री गुलाम रसूल कार (नाम-निर्देशित): जनाब वाइय चैयरमैन साहब, मोहतरम गाडगिल साहब ने जो बिल पेश किया है, वह गुजस्ता स्थिति में जो हालाति बदल गए उन हालात के साथ जो हमारे टैक्निकल नॉ हाउ की तरक्की हुई और जो टेलीफोन ऐक्सचेंजों का और पोस्ट आफिसों का फैलाव हमारे मुल्क भर में हुआ, जिनका अददशुमार मिनिस्टर साहब ने इस हाउस में

[श्री गुला रमूल कार]

पेश किया, उनमें कुछ राजस्व करने के लिए यह बिल है। टेलीग्राफ और टेलीफोन जहाँ हुकूमत के लिए आमदनी का जरिया है, जहाँ मैं समझता हूँ कि टेलीफोन घर पर होता जल्जरी ही नहीं, एक नैसर्गिक बन गई है। अगर मेरे घर में टेलीफोन हो तो 10 ईर्द भिर्द के घरों को फाँदा पहुँचता है। इसलिए जरूरत इस बात की है कि टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट को डिस्प्लेन के तहत लाया जाए। यह ठीक है कि कॉन्स्ट्रक्शन के तहत ट्रेड यूनियनिज्म की आम छूट है लेकिन ट्रेड यूनियनिज्म में ऐसी बात नहीं होनी चाहिए कि सिर्फ हुकूमत तलाश किए जाएँ, तंगनाहें बढ़ाने के लिए ऐप्लिकेशन किए जाएँ। जरूरत इस बात की है कि गित मुताजिब के लिए जो जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है वह उसको निभानी चाहिए। टेलीफोन और टेलीग्राफ डिपार्टमेंट में डिस्प्लेन होना निहायत जरूरी है और जो नया साइंस का दौर आया है उसमें इनकी जिम्मेदारी और बढ़ गई है। उनको ऐक्ट में लाने की भी जरूरत थी। मैं मिनिस्टर इंचार्ज को इतिहास मुन एक्वाइ देता हूँ और मैं समझता हूँ कि यह आज धन की पुता है, धन की जरूरत है। चाँहि तो यह था कि इस ऐक्ट को लागू करने के बाद इसमें जो कई टेक्निकल खामियाँ हैं, जो एक प्राविनी होना चाहिए था जहाँ दूसरा प्राविनी ऐक्ट में होना चाहिए। हर ऐक्ट को इन हाउस में पेश करे तो उसकी खराबियाँ और खामियों को सामने लाया जा सकता है और ऐक्ट के लागू करने के बाद उनकी खामियों को धन की जरूरत के मुताबिक ठीक किया जा सकता है।

टेलीफोन डिपार्टमेंट के फौजद और

मशीनरी का लाना, इनके दो तीन पहलू हैं। एक रिच बोर्ड होता है, दूसरा ऐक्जेंज का अपना सिस्टम और तीसरा ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव डिपार्टमेंट। ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव डिपार्टमेंट में आम तौर पर टेलीफोन में यह लगे लाए जाते हैं जो मैकेनिकल तौर पर आविष्कृत हैं। लेकिन रिच बोर्ड पर उन लोगों को तैनात किया जाता है जिनका मैकेनिकल डिपार्टमेंट के साथ कोई ताल्लुक नहीं रहता है और जब ऐक्जेंज खराब हो जाता है तो अपरेटर को भी मैकेनिकल डिपार्टमेंट की तरह रिफ्यूट करना पड़ता है और अपरेटर को भी आलियाँ खानी पड़ती हैं। जब टेलीफोन नंबर नहीं मिलता तो मैं टेलीफोन अपरेटर को पकड़ता हूँ। आम आमदमी को पता नहीं है कि ऐक्जेंज को ठीक रखना दूसरे लोगों का काम है। आज जरूरत इस अगर की है कि अपरेटर को भी खासी ट्रेनिंग दी जाए ताकि वह मैकेनिकल डिपार्टमेंट की देखभाल कर सके। यदि इंजिक्टर या लाइमैन उनकी देखभाल नहीं करता है तो इंस्पेक्टर और अपरेटर की तब्दीली तभी हो सकती है जब दोनों टेक्निकली फिट हों इनको करने के लिए। जरूरत इस अगर की है कि इनमें अंदरूनी तौर पर जो खामियाँ हैं उनकी दूर किया जाए। आज धन के इस साइंस के जमाने में कोई खराबी हो तो यह कहना कि टेक्निकल खराबी है, यह कहना लाना कि टेक्निकल खराबी है, मैं समझता हूँ मनामिब नहीं है। जरूरत एक अगर की है। जब इसकी हिफाजत सोशल सर्विस की ओर बन जाती है तो इस डिपार्टमेंट को ज्यादा खूबों के साथ चलाना चाहिये। मैं मानता हूँ जिस हद तक इसका फैलाव हुआ है उस हद तक इसमें ज्यादा खामियाँ पैदा होंगी, उस हद तक इसमें ज्यादा जिम्मेदारी

पैदा होंगी। लेकिन बेहतर यही है कि शिकायतों को कम होना या शिकायतों का न होना ही डिपार्टमेंट की काबिलियत है। अच्छाईयाँ और खूबी लोगों को दिखाई नहीं देंगी, अच्छाई और खूबी अगर डिपार्टमेंट को हो तो उसकी कहीं कोई चर्चा नहीं होगी लेकिन जहाँ खामियाँ होती हैं वहाँ उसकी चर्चा होती है। ज़रूरी यह है कि जहाँ बहुत ख़ासियाँ हैं वहाँ डिपार्टमेंट में कुछ खामियाँ भी होती हैं। मैं अपनी रियासत की थोड़ी बात कर लूँ जिसकी टोपीग्राफी, आबोहवा, नेचर ऐसी है कि हमें बर्फ़ और बरिज में रहना पड़ता है। टोपीग्राफी ऐसी है कि हमारे तबक मिनिस्टर या आफिसर जब्त पर नहीं पहुँचता। आमतौर पर शहर में रहने वाले लोगों को इस टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज के बारे में अवदीरत शिकायत है। एक्सचेंज आमतौर पर चलता नहीं है। जब हम 199 पर टेलीफोन करते हैं तब तक मिलाने के लिये तो पांच मिनट तक कोई उठता नहीं है। जब पांच मिनट के बाद कोई उठता है तो वह कहता है कि टेलीफोन आउट आक आर्डर है इसलिए आप 198 को टेलीफोन करें। उसमें भी पांच मिनट तक कोई नहीं उठता। अब वह 197 पर टेलीफोन करता है तो वह कहता है 197 पर टेलीफोन पर नहीं चलाया जा रहा है। ज़रूरत इस अगर की है इस डिपार्टमेंट में निचले स्तर पर काम करने वाले हैं, 199 पर, 198 पर, 197 पर, इनमें कोई बड़ा जिम्मेदार, बड़ा कर्मी-फाइड आदमी नहीं होता। जहाँ आम तौर पर छोटे आदमी होने हैं लेकिन इसका इस समस्या की है उनमें अच्छे किसम के जनरल पैदा किये जायें। इस किसम के जनरल पैदा किये जायें जिससे मध्यकाल के तत्कालीन हो। पूरी तरह से मैं इसमें सुनिश्चित

करूँगा उस डिपार्टमेंट का काम हमारी रियासत के टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज को देखना भी है। हमारी एक पहाड़ी रियासत है। हमारा घर सिर्फ टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज से 150 फीट की दूरी पर है। अगर हम खिड़की से आवाज लगायें तो टेलीफोन आफिसर बाहर निकल कर आ सकता है। डेढ़ सौ फीट के फसल पर कोई एक्सचेंज हो, हर आध घंटे पर मुझे एक आदमी भेजना पड़ता है कि वह हमारे साथ बात करे। मैं जानता हूँ टेक्निकल डिपार्टमेंट है, एक्सचेंज में गर्द भी पड़ता है और गर्द जब पड़ता है तो तार कैंब नहीं होती। ज़रूरत इस अगर की है कि इस डिपार्टमेंट को जरा हरकत में लाइये। मैं समझता हूँ बहुत सारी खिदमत है, बहुत अच्छे काम करने वाले भी हैं। लेकिन जहाँ खामियाँ पैदा होती हैं उसकी चर्चा होती है। मैं माफ़ूस करता हूँ जहाँ कोई टेलीफोन नहीं चलता, कोई खराबी होता है तो मरफक को गानियाँ मिलती हैं। जहाँ रोजनविजन पर लोगों का उदास जाता है, जहाँ सेटीमेंट में मतलब की जगहों को उकसाया जाता है वहाँ मरफक को गानियाँ दी जाती हैं। हमारी रियासत में इन किसम को हाजिर है कि अगर हमारे मतलबों कारखाने अच्छे काम नहीं करते तो वह रोजनविजन तौर पर मरफक डिपार्टमेंट को गानियाँ मिलती हैं, गिहासते करते हैं। कहते हैं डिपार्टमेंट ठीक नहीं चलता, टेलीफोन ठीक नहीं काम करता। हमारे इस पारिष्टिक जगत के होने के नाते आरंभ साथ आकरता होने के नाते गवर्नमेंट में हमारा कोई दखन नहीं है। लेकिन बे लीग जनरल हैं कि यही अजब बात है, वह कैसे हो सक्ता है। वह लोकल गवर्नमेंट के खिलाफ कदम उठाते हैं। जिहास इन गवर्नमेंट में बरकत देने को ज़रूरी है। टेलीफोन निस्टम का यह हाल है हमारे यहाँ कि दूर-दूरे तीसरे रोज एक

[श्री गुलाम रसूल कार]

दो एकपैज में आत्र लग जाती है । अगर हमें फायर ब्रिगेड बुलानी हो तो टेलीफोन की जरूरत पड़ती है, गाड़ी बुलानी हो तो उनके लिए भी टेलीफोन की जरूरत होती है । अगर एक्सीडेंट हो जाता है तो उसके लिए भी टेलीफोन की जरूरत पड़ती है । इसलिए मैंने कहा कि टेलीफोन अब लक्ष्मी नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि यह जरूरत बन गया है । मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इ. डिपार्टमेंट की हरकत में लाइये ।

आपने माइक्रोवेव सिस्टम चलाने की बात कही है । पिछले छह सात साल से आपने बारमुला, गुलमोहर वगैरह में इसके लिए काम किया है । श्रीनगर में तो माइक्रोवेव सिस्टम है । लेकिन दूसरी जगहों पर टाक्स बना दिये गये और दूसरी मशीनरी भी लगा दी गई है, लेकिन उनको चालू नहीं किया गया है । मैंने इन बारे में डिपार्टमेंट से भी शिकायत की है । करोड़ों रुपये इस पर खर्च किया जा चुका है । जरूरत इस बात की है कि इन माइक्रोवेव सिस्टम को चालू किया जाय ।

अब मैं अपने कस्बे के बारे में कुछ बातें कहना चाहता हूँ । श्रीनगर के बाद निजारात में हमारा कस्बा दूसरे नम्बर पर आता है । लेकिन जो टेलीग्राम दिल्ली से जाता है वह पहले श्रीनगर जाता है उसके बाद बारमुला डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर में जाता है । मेरी समस्या में नहीं आता कि इस तरह से तार भेजने में देरी क्यों की जाती है ? इस तरह चार रोज में तार पहुंचता है । मैं समझता हूँ कि इतनी देर में अगर टेलीग्राम मिले तो उसका क्या फायदा है ।

अब मैं कुछ बातें आपके डिपार्टमेंट में जो केजुअल लेबरर्स हैं उनके बारे

में कहना चाहता हूँ । काफी तादाद में इस डिपार्टमेंट में केजुअल लेबरर्स काम करते हैं । उनको चार-चार और पांच-पांच साल काम करते हुए हो जाते हैं, फिर भी उनको मुस्तकिल नहीं किया जाता है । मैं समझता हूँ कि उनको मुस्तकिल किया जाना चाहिए । जिन लोगों को काम करते हुए तीन साल हो गये हैं उनको मुस्तकिल किया जाना चाहिए । जो लोग पहले आए हैं, जब से आपने उनको तैनात किया है, फर्स्ट परफरेन्स पर आ । उन को मुस्तकिल कर सकते हैं ।

इसके साथ-साथ मैं डायरेक्टरी के बारे में भी कुछ बातें कहना चाहता हूँ । आपने डायरेक्टरी छपी है । काश्मीर के लिए आपने डायरेक्टरी छपी है । लेकिन जम्मू के लिए अलग डायरेक्टरी है, काश्मीर के लिए अलग डायरेक्टरी है और लद्दाख के लिए अलग डायरेक्टरी है । तीन डायरेक्टरियां काश्मीर के लिए छपी गई हैं । अगर हमें कोई नम्बर देवता हो तो हमें तीनों डायरेक्टरीज को देवता पड़ेगा और उसके बाद भी तम्बरा तलाश हो जाय तो ठीक है ।

इसी तरह से मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि पहले टेलीग्राम का कोड उर्दू में भी होता था, लेकिन अब वह बन्द कर दिया गया है । आप जानते हैं कि उर्दू हमारे स्टेट की जबान है, सरकारी जबान है । काश्मीर के कांस्टिट्यूशन के मुताबिक उर्दू वहां की रिजोनल जबान है । जब वहां पर फ्यूडल सिस्टम था और महाराजा हरि सिंह वहां पर थे तो हम उर्दू में टेलीग्राम दिया करते थे । लेकिन अब आपके डिपार्टमेंट ने उर्दू में

टेलीग्राम लेने बन्द कर दिये हैं। उर्दू का कोड खत्म कर दिया गया है। टेलीग्राम सिर्फ अंग्रेजी में लिखे जाते हैं। अंग्रेजी भी हमें आती है, हिन्दी भी हमारी जवान है, वह हमारे लिए जरूरी है, लेकिन उर्दू जम्मू-काश्मीर को रीजनल जवान है, इसलिए उर्दू में भी टेलीग्राम लिखे जाने चाहिए। इससे आपका फंडे-रल सिस्टम मजबूत होगा। लोग समझेंगे कि हमारी उर्दू जवान को भी जगह दी जा रही है।

जहां तक टेलीफोन के बिलों का ताल्लूक है, उनके बारे में मेम्बरों ने काफी रोशनी डाल दी है। मैं उनमें इजाफा नहीं करना चाहता हूं। मेरे टेलीफोन का बिल चार हजार रुपये का आ गया। मैं अपने बेटे के नाम पर दूसरा कनेक्शन लेता हूं तो अपना डिस्टेंस कहता है कि अपना अगले बार-बार हजार रुपये का बिल बंकि है। अगर ऐसा कीजिए कि अगर हमारे मान में टेलीफोन मजबूत इसलिये कटे कि हमारे पास बचता है तो उन घर में दूसरा टेलीफोन मां दीजिए, उस फैमिली के दूसरे मेम्बर को टेलीफोन मां दीजिए। इससे आमतौर पर आदमी जो जवान होगा और आदमी भी हां जायेंगे। आमतौर पर ऐसा होता है कि मेरे नाम पर टेलीफोन है, मेरे बेटे के नाम पर, भाई के नाम पर टेलीफोन है (पत्नी का घंटी) कन्स्यूड कर रहा हूं। एक निम्न।

निश्चय मेरी गुंजायिश है कि अगर घर में दो टेलीफोन लगे हुए हैं, बड़े बड़े कंपटनिस्ट, बड़े बड़े शरमावेदार, बड़े बड़े कारखानेदार जब टेलीफोन को दरखास्त करते हैं तो इनको टेलीफोन फौरन मिल जाता है। कई कंटेनरी इस तरह से मुकर्रर कर दी हैं। उनमें मिडिल क्लास के जो नये लोग हैं

उनको फारी टेलीफोन नहीं मिलता है। अगर इसमें तरमीम लाइये। जिस कार-खाने या घर में दो टेलीफोन हों उनकी दरखास्त अक्सेप्ट तो कीजिए लेकिन पहले उसको टेलीफोन दीजिए जिसके यहां कोई टेलीफोन नहीं लगा हुआ है। रशक होता है उन लोगों को यह देखकर। जो नये आदमी सोसाइटी में पैदा होते हैं उनको टेलीफोन करने में काफी दिक्कत होती है। जम्मू और काश्मीर, लद्दाख की ट्रापी-कल कंडिशन को सरेनजर रखकर वहां मेहरबानी करके टेलीफोन सिस्टम को दुस्सा कीजिए, ठीक कीजिए। लोगों की शिकायत जब पैदा होती है तो पोलिटिकली और बिजनेस तौर पर उनका मुताबता, इस वजह से करना पड़ता है कि जहां सेलुलर एलिमेंट्स हैं, रीजनल थिंकिंग है वहां लोग इस चीज को बहुत हद तक एक्सेप्ट करते हैं। मैं इतना कहते हुए आपसे गुंजायिश करता हूं कि आप धक्का निकालें और श्रीनगर आयें, लद्दाख आयें, जम्मू आयें और खुद लोगों से मिलने को जहमत उठावें और लोगों को करीब से देखें। आपने जिम काविलियन में, जिम डंग से इस ऐक्ट को पेश किया है उसमें आपने हमें और अपोजिशन को मुत्सर कर दिया। आपको मिनिस्ट्री का कांग्रेस के दौर में जितना फैलाव हो सकता है उसको दाद दिये बिना नहीं रहा जा सकता। मैं समझता हूं कि जितना फैलाव हुआ है वह अच्छा काम हुआ है। मैं समझता हूं कि जितना भी इसका फैलाव होगा उतना ही आपकी आमदनी में इजाफा होगा। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि आप मेरी बात पर तबज्जह देंगे।

† [شادی غلام رسول کار (نامزد) :

جناب وائس چئمپرمن صاحب -
محترم گڈنل صاحب نے جو بل
پیش کیا ہے وہ کوششہ استغی میں
جو حالات بدل گئے ان حالات کے
سواء جو ہمارے ٹیکنیکل نو - ہاؤ
کی ترقی ہونی اور جو تھنی فرن
ایکسچینجوں کا اور پورٹ آفسز کا
پھیلاؤ ہمارے ملک پر میں ہوا -
چکا احاد : شمار منسٹر صاحب نے
اس ہاؤس میں پیش کیا : اس میں
جو کچھ تجویز کرنے کھائے یہ بل
ہے - ٹیلیگراف اور تھنی فرن جہاں
حکومت کیلئے آمدنی کا ذریعہ ہے
وہاں میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ٹیلیفرن
کھر پر ہونا لگزی ہو نہیں ایک
نیسہستی بن گیا ہے - اگر میرے
کھر میں تھنی فرن ہو تو دس
اون گون کے گھروں کو فائدہ پہنچتا ہے -
اس لئے ضرورت اس بات کی ہے کہ
ٹیلیفرن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو ڈیپلن کے
تحت لایا جائے - یہ ٹیک ہے کہ
کاسٹی ٹیوشن کے تحت ٹریڈ
یونیفرم کی تمام چیزت ہے - لیکن
ٹریڈ یونیفرم میں ایسی بات نہیں
ہونی چاہئے کہ صرف حقوق تلاش
کئے جائیں - تلخواہیں بومانے کے
لئے ایچی ٹیشن کئے جائیں ضرورت
اس بات کی ہے کہ جس ملازم کیلئے
جو ذمہ داری سونپی گئی ہے وہ
اسکو نبھانی چاہئے - تھنی فرن اور
ٹیلیگراف ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں ڈیپلن

ہونا نہایت ضروری ہے اور جو نیا
سائنس کا در آیا ہے اس میں انکی
ذمہ داری اور بڑھ گئی ہے : انکو
ایکٹ میں لانے کی بڑی ضرورت
ہی - میں منسٹر انچارج کو اسکے
لئے مبارکباد دیتا ہوں اور میں
سمجھتا ہوں کہ آج وقت کی ہکار
ہے - وقت کی ضرورت ہے - چاہئے
تو یہ تھا کہ اس ایکٹ کو لاگو کرنے
کے بعد اسیں جو کئی ٹیکنیکل
خامیاں ہیں - جہاں ایک پروویز
دونا چاہئے تھا وہاں دوسرا پروویز
ایکٹ میں ہونا چاہئے - ہر ایکٹ
کو اس ہاؤس میں پیش کریں تو
اسی خرابیوں اور خامیوں کو
سامنے لایا جا سکتا ہے اور ایکٹ کے
لاگو کرنے کے بعد اسی خامیوں کو
وقت کی ضرورت کے مطابق ٹیک
کنا جا سکتا ہے -

تھنی فرن ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے پھیلاؤ
اور مشینری کا لگانا - اس کے دو تھن
پہلو ہیں - ایک سوچ بورت ہوتا ہے -
دوسرا ایکسچینج کا ایلا سسٹم - اور
تیسرا ایڈمنسٹریٹیو ڈیپارٹمنٹ -
ایڈمنسٹریٹیو ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں عام
طور پر ٹیلیفرن میں وہ لوگ لگائے
جاتے ہیں جو ٹیکنیکل طور پر
واقف ہوں - لیکن سوچ بورت پر ان
لوگوں کو تعلمات کوا جانا ہے جن کا
ٹیکنیکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ساتھ کوئی
تعلق نہیں رہتا ہے - اور جب

ایکسچینج خراب ہو جاتا ہے تو آپریٹر کو بھی میکانیکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی طرح رپورٹ کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ اور آپریٹر کو بھی گالیاں کھانی پڑتی ہیں۔ جب ٹیلیفون نمبر نہیں ملتا تو میں ٹیلیفون آپریٹر کو پکارتا ہوں۔ تمام آدمی کو پتہ نہیں ہے کہ ایکسچینج کو ٹھیک رکھنا دوسرے لوگوں کا کام ہے۔ آج ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ آپریٹر کو بھی خاصی تربیت دی جائے تاکہ وہ میکانیکل ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی دیکھ بھال کر سکے۔ اگر انسپیکٹر یا لائن مین اس کی دیکھ بھال نہیں کرتا ہے تو انسپیکٹر اور آپریٹر کی تبدیلی تیزی ہو سکتی ہے جب دونوں ٹیکنیکی فٹ ہوں اس کو جاننے کے لئے۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ اس میں اندرونی طور پر جو خامیاں ہیں ان کو دور کیا جائے۔

آج کل کے اس سائنس کے زمانہ میں کوئی خرابی ہو تو یہ کہنا کہ ٹیکنیکل خرابی ہے۔ یا بھانا لگانا کہ ٹیکنیکل خرابی ہے میں سمجھتا ہوں مناسب نہیں ہے۔ ضرورت اس امر کی ہے جب اس کی حفاظت سوشل سروس کی طرف بن جاتی ہے تو اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو زیادہ خوبی کے ساتھ چلانا چاہئے۔ میں ماننا ہوں جس حد تک اس کا پھیلاؤ ہوا ہے اس حد تک اس میں

زیادہ خامیاں پیدا ہوئی ہیں۔ اس حد تک اس میں زیادہ شکایتیں پیدا ہوئی ہیں۔ لیکن بہتر یہی ہے کہ شکایتوں کا کم ہونا یا شکایتوں کا نہ ہونا ہی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کی قابلیت ہے۔ اچھائیاں اور خوبیاں لوگوں کو دکھائی نہیں دیں گی اچھائی اور خوبی اگر ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ہو تو اس کی کہیں کوئی چرچہ نہیں ہو گی لیکن جہاں خامیاں ہوتی ہیں وہاں اس کی چرچہ ہوتی ہے۔ واقعہ یہ ہے کہ جہاں بہت ساری خوبیاں ہیں وہاں ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کچھ خامیاں بھی ہوتی ہیں۔ میں اپنی ریاست کی تہذیبی بات کر لوں گا کہ آج اب وہاں - نیچر ایسی ہے کہ ہمیں برف اور آگ میں رہنا پڑتا ہے۔ آج آج ایسی ہے کہ ہمارے تک مسٹریل یا انیشیل وقت پر نہیں پہنچتا۔ تمام طور پر شہر میں رہنے والے لوگوں کو اس ٹیلیفون ایکسچینج کے طور پر ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے بارے میں زیادہ شکایت ہے۔ ایکسچینج تمام طور پر چلتا نہیں ہے۔ جب ہم ۱۹۹ پر ٹیلیفون کرتے ہیں نمبر ملنے کیلئے تو پانچ منٹ تک کوئی اٹھاتا نہیں ہے۔ جب پانچ منٹ کے بعد کوئی اٹھاتا ہے تو کہتا ہے کہ ٹیلیفون آؤٹ آف آرڈر ہے۔ اسلئے آپ ۱۹۸ کو ٹیلیفون کریں۔ اس میں بھی پانچ منٹ تک کوئی نہیں اٹھاتا۔ جب وہاں سے بھی اٹھاتا

[شری غلام رسول کار]

ہے تو وہ کہتا ہے ۱۹۷ کو آپ
تیلی فون کرائیں - وہاں بھی یہی
حالت ہے - ضرورت اس امر کی ہے
اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں نچلے اسٹر پر
کام کرنے والے ہیں - ۱۹۹ پر ۱۹۸
پر - ۱۹۷ پر - اس میں کوئی ہوا
ذمہ دار - وہاں عام طور پر چھوٹے آدمی
ہیں لیکن ضرورت اس امر کی ہے
کہ ان میں اچھے قسم کے جذبات
پیدا کئے جائیں - اس قسم کے
جذبات پیدا کئے جائیں جس سے
سیکریٹری کی تسلی ہو - پوری
طرح سے میں اسکو مطمئن کروں گا -
اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کا کام ہماری ریاست
کے ٹیلی فون ایکسچینج کو دیکھنا بھی
ہے - ہماری ایک بڑی ریاست ہے -
ہمارا گھر صرف ٹیلی فون ایکسچینج
سے ۱۵۰ فٹ کی دوری پر ہے اگر
ہم کوڑکی سے آواز لگائیں تو ٹیلی فون
آپریٹر باہر نکل کر آ سکتا ہے - قیڑی
سو فٹ کے فاصلہ پر کوئی ایکسچینج
ہو ہر آدھ گھنٹہ پر مجھے ایک
آدمی بوجھا پڑتا ہے کہ وہ ہمارے
ساتھ بات کرے میں جانتا ہوں ٹیکنیکل
ڈیپارٹمنٹ ہے - ایکسچینج میں گرد
بڑی پڑتا ہے اور گرد جب پڑتا ہے
تو تار کیچ نہیں ہر تار - ضرورت
اس امر کی ہے کہ اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ
کو ذرا حرکت میں لائیے - میں
سمجھتا ہوں بہت ساری خدمات
ہیں - بہت اچھے کام کرنے والے بھی

ہیں لیکن جہاں خاموشی پیدا ہوتی
ہیں اس کی چرچہ ہوتی ہے میں
مختصر کرتا ہوں جہاں کوئی
ٹیلی فون نہیں چلتا کوئی خرابی
ہوتی ہے تو مرکز کو گالیاں ملتی
ہیں - جہاں ریجنلزم پر لوگوں کو
اکسایا جاتا ہے - جہاں سینیٹیمیلٹس
مذہبی جذبات کو اکسایا جاتا ہے -
وہاں مرکز کو گالیاں دی جاتی ہیں -
ہماری ریاست میں اس قسم کے
حالت ہیں کہ اگر ہمارے مرکزی
کارخانہ اچھے کام نہیں کرتے تو ریجنل
طور پر مرکزی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو گالیاں
ملتی ہیں - شکایتیں کرتے ہیں -
کہتے ہیں ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹھیک نہیں
چلتا - ٹیلی فون ٹھیک کام نہیں کرتا -
ہمارے اس پالیٹیکل جماعت کے ہونے
کے ناتے آپ کے ساتھ واسطہ ہونے کے
ناتے گورنمنٹ میں ہمارا کوئی دخل
نہیں ہے - لیکن وہ لوگ سمجھتے
ہیں کہ بڑی عجیب بات ہے یہ
کیسے ہو سکتا ہے وہ لوکل گورنمنٹ
کے خلاف قدم اٹھاتے ہیں - لہذا اس
گورنمنٹ میں حرکت دینے کی
ضرورت ہے - ٹیلی فون سسٹم کا یہ حال
ہے ہمارے یہاں ہر دوسرے دوسرے
روز ایک دو ایکسچینج میں آگ
لگ جاتی ہے - اگر ہمیں فائر برکیڈ
بلانی ہو تو ٹیلی فون کی ضرورت پڑتی
ہے - گازی بلانی ہو تو اس کے لئے بھی
ٹیلی فون کی ضرورت پڑتی ہے - اگر
ایکسیڈنٹ ہو جاتا ہے تو اس کے لئے

بھی تیلیگرافوں کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے اس لئے میں نے کہا کہ تیلیگرافوں اب لگزی نہیں رہ گیا ہے بلکہ یہ ضرورت بن گیا ہے۔ میں چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کو حرکت میں لائیے۔

آپ نے مائیکرو ویٹ سسٹم چلانے کی بات کہی ہے پچھلے چھ سالوں سے آپ نے بارہ مولہ - گمورہ وغیرہ میں اس کے لئے کام کیا ہے۔ شری نگر میں تو مائیکرو ویٹ سسٹم ہے لیکن دوسری جگہوں پر ٹاورس بننا دیئے گئے اور دوسری مشینری بھی لگا دی گئی ہیں لیکن ان کو چالو نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔ میں نے اس بارے میں ڈیپارٹمنٹ سے بھی شکایت کی ہے۔ کروڑوں روپیہ اس پر خرچ کیا جا چکا ہے۔ ضرورت اس بات کی ہے کہ اس مائیکرو ویٹ سسٹم کو چالو کیا جائے۔

اب میں اپنے قصہ کے بارے میں کچھ باتیں کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ سریلنگ کے بعد تجارت میں ہمارا قصہ دوسرے نمبر پر آتا ہے۔ لیکن جو تیلیگراف ڈائی سے جاتا ہے وہ پہلے سر نگر جاتا ہے اور اس کے بعد بارہ مولہ ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر میں جاتا ہے۔ میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتا کہ اس طرح سے تار بیچنے میں دیریں کیوں کی جاتی ہے۔ اس طرح چار روز میں تار پہنچتا ہے۔ میں

سمجھتا ہوں کہ اتنی دیر میں اگر تیلیگراف ملے تو اس کا کیا فائدہ ہے۔ اب میں کچھ باتیں آپ کے ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں جو کیچول لیڈرس ہیں۔ ان کے بارے میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ کافی تعداد میں اس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کیچول لیڈرس کم کرتی ہے ان کو چار چار اور پانچ پانچ سال کام کرتے ہوئے ہو جاتے ہیں پھر بھی ان کو مستقل نہیں کیا جاتا ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ان کو مستقل کیا جانا چاہئے۔ جن لوگوں کو کام کرتے ہوئے تین سال ہو گئے ہیں ان کو مستقل کیا جانا چاہئے۔ جو لوگ پہلے آئے ہیں جب سے آپ نے ان کو تازہ کیا ہے فرم پر پرفورمنس پر آپ ان کو مستقل کر سکتے ہیں۔

اس کے ساتھ میں ڈائریکٹری کے بارے میں بھی کچھ کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔ آپ نے ڈائریکٹری چھاپی ہے کشمیر کوئلے بھی آپ نے ڈائریکٹری چھاپی ہے لیکن جن کوئلے الگ ڈائریکٹری ہے۔ کشمیر کیئلے الگ ڈائریکٹری ہے ادا کے کیئلے الگ ڈائریکٹری ہے۔ تین ڈائریکٹریاں کشمیر کے لئے چھاپی گئی ہیں اگر ہمیں کوئی نمبر دیکھنا ہو تو ہمیں تینوں ڈائریکٹریوں کو دیکھنا پڑے گا اور اسکے بعد بھی نمبر تلاش ہو جائیں تو ٹھیک ہے۔ اسی طرح سے میں یہ بھی کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ تیلیگراف کا کوڈ اردو

[شہری غلام رسول گار]

میں بھی ہوتا تھا لیکن اب وہ بند کر دیا گیا ہے آپ جانتے ہیں کہ اردو ہمارے اسٹیٹ کی زبان ہے۔ سرکاری زبان ہے۔ کشمیر کے کانستبل ٹیوٹن کے مطابق اردو وہاں کی ریجنل لینگویج ہے جب وہاں پر فیوڈرل سسٹم تھا اور مہاراجہ ہیر سنگھ وہاں پر تھے تو ہم اردو میں ٹیلیگرام دیا کرتے تھے لیکن اب آپکے فیوڈرل سسٹم نے اردو میں ٹیلیگرام لہنے بند کر دیئے ہیں اردو کا کوہ ختم کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ٹیلیگرام صرف انگریزی میں لئے جاتے ہیں۔ انگریزی بھی ہمیں آتی ہے۔ ہندی بھی ہماری زبان ہے وہ ہمارے لئے ضروری ہے لیکن اردو جموں و کشمیر کی ریجنل زبان ہے اس لئے اردو میں بھی ٹیلیگرام لئے جانے چاہئیں۔ اس سے آپ کا فیوڈرل سسٹم مضبوط ہوگا۔ لوگ سمجھیں گے کہ ہماری اردو زبان کو بھر جگہ دی جا رہی ہے۔

جہاں تک ٹیلیفون کے باروں کا تعلق ہے انکے بارے میں ممبروں نے کافی روشنی ڈال دی ہے میں اس میں اضافہ نہیں کرنا چاہتا ہوں میرے ٹیلیفون کا بل چار ہزار روپیہ کا آیا ہے میں اپنے بھتیجے کے نام پر دوسرا کالمکشن لیتا ہوں تو آپ کا ابھی فیوڈرل سسٹم کہتا ہے کہ آپ کا ابھی چار پانچ ہزار روپیہ کا بل باقی ہے۔ آ۔ ایسا کیجئے کہ اگر ہمارے مکان میں ٹیلیفون محض اس لئے آئے کہ ہمارے پاس بٹایا ہے تو اس گھر میں دوسرا ٹیلیفون مت دیتے اس فیملی کے دوسرے ممبر کو ٹیلیفون مت دیجئے۔ اس سے آپ کو آمدنی بھی زیادہ ہوگی اور ادائیگی بھی

ہو جائیگی۔ منہ طور پر ایسا ہوتا ہے کہ میرے نام پر ٹیلیفون ہے۔ میرے بھتیجے کے نام پر۔ برائی کے نام پر ٹیلیفون ہے۔۔۔ (وقت کی گنتی) کانکڑ کر رہا ہوں ایک منٹ۔

لہذا میری گزارش ہے کہ اگر گھر میں دو ٹیلیفون لگے ہوئے ہیں۔ بڑے بڑے کیپیٹلسٹ بڑے بڑے سرمایہ دار بڑے بڑے کارخانہ دار جب ٹیلیفون کی درخواست کرتے ہیں تو ان کو ٹیلیفون فوراً مل جاتا ہے۔ کئی کیٹیگری اس طرح سے مقرر کر دی گئی ہیں۔ اس میں مثال کلاس کے جو نئے لوگ ہیں ان کو فوری ٹیلیفون نہیں ملتا ہے۔ آپ اس میں ترمیم لائیے۔ جس کارخانہ یا گھر میں دو ٹیلیفون ہوں ان کو درخواست ایکسپریٹ تو کھجئے لیکن پہلے اس کو ٹیلیفون دیجئے جسکے یہاں کوئی ٹیلیفون نہیں لگا ہوا ہے۔ شک ہوتا ہے ان لوگوں کو یہ دیکھ کر جو نئے نئے آدمی سوسائٹی میں پیدا ہوتے ہیں ان کو ٹیلیفون کرنے میں کافی دقت ہوتی ہے۔ جموں و کشمیر۔ لداخ کی ٹرائیڈکل کنڈیشنس کو زیر نظر رکھ کر وہاں مہربانی کر کے ٹیلیفون سسٹم کو درست کیجئے تھپک کیجئے۔ لوگوں کی شکایت چمپ پیدا ہوتی ہے تو پرائیویٹ کی اور سیٹیلیٹ کی اور پھر ان کو مقابلہ اس لئے کرنا پڑتا ہے کہ جہاں سسٹم الیمینٹس ہیں۔ ریجنل ٹرمینل ہے وہاں لوگ اس چیز کو بہت حد تک ایکسپوٹ کرتے ہیں۔ میں انہیں کہتے ہوئے آپ سے گزارش کرتا ہوں کہ آپ وقت نکالیں اور سری نگر آئیں۔ لداخ آئیں۔ جموں آئیں اور خود لوگوں سے ملنے کی زحمت

اتھانیں - اور لوگوں کو قریب سے دیکھیں۔ آپ نے جس قابلیت سے جس ذہن سے اس ایکٹ کو پیش کیا ہے اس سے آپ نے ہمیں اور ایوزیشن کو متاثر کر دیا - آپ کی مجلس ترقی کا کانگریس کے دور میں جتلا پھیلاؤ ہو سکتا ہے اس کی داد دینے بغیر نہیں رہا جا سکتا - میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ جتلا پھیلاؤ ہوا ہے وہ اچھا کام ہوا ہے - میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ جتلا بھی اس کا پھیلاؤ ہوگا اتنا ہی آپ کی آمدنی میں اضافہ ہوگا - میں اُمید کرتا ہوں کہ آپ میری بات پر توجہ دیں گے -

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, I am thankful to the ten or eleven honourable Members who have spoken on this Bill. I am also thankful to them for bringing to my notice certain of their individual problems, local problems and specific incidents. If I don't make any reference to these, or if I do not specifically refer to any Member, it does not mean that what they have contributed is of any less importance. With the short time available at my disposal, I propose to confine myself to important issues and problem and not go into details. As far as the details are concerned, I will attend to them and I will write to the Members concerned and try to see that things improve.

Sir, before I go into the issues, I would like to make three things clear. An impression seems to have been created as if during the last one hundred years the Act has not been amended at all and as if it is being amended now for the first time. It was amended from time to time, at least six times, and as things develop, as technology advances, amendments are brought forward. The last amendment was in 1973 and we thought that ten years had passed and that a look or a review was necessary and that is the origin of this Bill. Secondly, some people have got the impression—at least one honourable Member said—that a group is appointed and somehow I have succumbed to that group and all that they

have said I have accepted. Without accepting, or rather even accepting the charge of being immodest, let me say that I do not succumb to any officer's pressure. I see what they have brought, satisfy myself that what they are suggesting is correct and then only I accept and that is so in regard to this Bill also. The third thing, and more important, is that I thought as this is a very short, simple Bill, no politics will be brought into it. But I was a little surprised that some motive is sought to be attributed. There is nothing against trade unionism in this Bill. Let my Leftist friends know that the first Post and Telegraph Union in India was established in Poona by Mr. K. G. Gadgil—it is a historic fact—long before it was started in other areas. I myself was associated with the P & T Union for several years at Poona. I used to come with their problems. I fought more vigorously for the than probably other Members have done before Mr. C. M. Stephen. It is true that now I am on the wrong side of the table. (Interruptions) But that does not mean that I have forgotten my trade union experience and that I have no concern with trade unionism. Therefore, I think it is not correct to say that this is an anti-trade union Bill or anti-labour Bill. As I said, as one hon. Member from the CPI rightly said, and I have also stated it in the beginning, that I do not accept the proposition that everybody is bad in the P. & T. Department. Black sheep are everywhere in every profession. I belong to the legal profession. I practised for 25 years and I have come across so many black sheep in the legal profession. But that does not mean that all advocates are bad. So I am not saying that all employees in the P & T or all employees or trade union workers in the P & T are bad. But I do maintain that a small percentage is bad. And that gives us a bad image.

I will give only one illustration. At the time of the NAM, CHOGM and ASIAD our people did wonderfully well. Three thousand media men attended. We provided telex to 67 countries—44,000 minutes of telex and 14,000 international trunk calls were made. We provided facsimile to 23 countries, not with one

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

single fault. I would urge upon the Members... (*Interruption*) I welcome criticism. I do not resent it. But our employees have done wonderfully well. They got all praise from many foreign correspondents who had come here. But at the same time there is a small element which gives a bad name, and the provisions here are to deal with them. I want to disabuse the mines of several people; it will not be used against legitimate trade unionism, legitimate labour movement activities. But it will be used against those who are corrupt, those who divert lines and cause a lot of loss not only to the Government but to subscribers also and also give a bad name not only to the Department but even to the country. My friend from Tamil Nadu mentioned that some of them wanted to start business but then they came to know certain things and they went elsewhere. It gives a bad image to the country itself. Therefore, it is proper that we should deal with such elements firmly.

But as I expected, most of the discussion was not on the Telegraph Bill. It was about the functioning of the telephone network. There is nothing wrong in it. Just as it gives you an opportunity to point out the defects, the shortcomings—I think it is legitimate—it also gives me an opportunity to present the other side. I do not claim that the system is working completely satisfactorily. It is not. But let us analyse why it is so. Having spent a year and a half in this Ministry my conclusions are that the system is not working completely satisfactorily for the following reasons. Telephone was awarded a low priority. And rightly so, because in the first five Plans, Power and Irrigation were more important than telecommunications. Therefore, the allotment of priority was low, with the result that we did not have enough finance available. It is true that telecommunication is profitable. But the initial investment is enormous. To give you one illustration, an 8000 line electronic exchange costs 16 crores of rupees. We talk of improvements in Japan. Recently, I read a book and in that book the Chairman of the N.E.C. states that in 1957 it took six hours on an average for a call to

materialise in Japan and that there was a waiting list of 30 lakhs. What did they do? In ten years, they invested 64 billion dollars. That is why Japan is one of the best. Unfortunately, in India we do not have enough money. There is lack of finance, low priority, inadequate maintenance which is the characteristic of all the industries, whether private or public. There is also faulty planning to a certain extent and also insufficient training. But, according to me, the most important reason is the low density of telephones. Some of the so called middle class people come to me and say: "Yesterday, I was in America and the telephone was working wonderfully well. It works well in Germany and England." They take pride in that and try to demigrate India. What is the reason? In most of the western countries, there are at least 800 telephones for every 1000 persons. There are several cities in America where the number of telephones is more than that of human beings. Of course, the system works. Here, in India, for 1000 persons, the number of telephones is 2.8 or 3. The whole load comes on 3 telephones. It is something like traffic jam, 1000 people wanting to ring up with only 3 telephones. Some people talk longer than necessary. I do not blame them. But this is also one of the reasons. Supposing my friend, Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, talks to Miss Saroj Khaparde for half-an-hour. What will happen? Ten persons wanting to talk to her will get it engaged and 10 persons wanting to talk to Mr. Suresh Kalmadi will get it engaged and the blame will come on us.

गडगिल की मिनिस्ट्रो काम नहीं करती ।

Therefore, we have put an advertisement: Please be brief, somebody is waiting on the line. Therefore, if people go on talking....

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
And what about wrong numbers?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I am coming to wrong numbers also. First, I am dealing with engaged numbers. Sometimes, people talk too long and that is a problem. In other countries also, people talk long. Some time back, there

was a cartoon in *Punch*, a British magazine. The cartoon shows a telephone booth, a lady talking on the telephone, 60 or 70 people waiting. It also shows a book and she is saying: "Now, my dear, I will read you the third chapter." If the people go on using a telephone in that fashion, naturally you will get engaged phones, particularly in a developing country like India where there are only 3 telephones for 1000 people. The basic reason is what is technically called "low telephone density". I will prove this point to the hilt. I come from Poona. In the 60s, the waiting list was very small. The telephones were working very well. There was hardly any complaint. By the 70s, industrial expansion had taken place. There was a long waiting list and there were lots of complaints. The efficiency or efficacy varies with the waiting list. The basic problem is low density. That is why, in the 7th Plan, as my friend, Mr. Rama-Krishna mentioned, I asked for 12500 crores of rupees, six times more than that of the Sixth Plan. The country has realised that not only for industrial development, not only for economic development, but also for economic decentralisation, communication is a must. The other day I went to Chiptem. I met a gentleman hardly 25 or 30 years old. He has started an industry there because of the tax relief and other things. He said: "I regret I came here; there is no telephone facility here. I have got export orders and I have to send somebody to Bombay." Why should people come to these areas? Therefore, for industrial decentralisation, telecommunication is a must. I will go one step further. Not only for economic development, not only for industrial development, even for national integration, communication is a must. If tomorrow a signal goes from North East to the INSAT-IB which is 22,000 miles above, in less than a minute it goes up and in less than a minute it comes to the 28 earth stations and the telephones work. Supposing a person from the North-East is able to speak to a person in Srinagar, will it not help national integration? So, even for national integration, the telecom is a must. That

is why I pleaded for a priority and for more funds. And, I am thankful to the Prime Minister that fortunately in 1983, during the World Communication Year, she took certain historic decisions of which a mention has been made. And I hope to get a greater priority and more funds in the Seventh Plan. That will to a large extent remove the basic cause, namely the low density. So, these are some of the general observations I wanted to make. About wrong bills, I would like to...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): May I make one intervention? In your reasoning on that point that low density is the reason, there is a possible catch because if we have only three telephones, firstly you can ring up only up to three people. If there are 1,000, you could ring 1000 people. And the second difficulty is that unlike in the advanced countries, all those 1,000 people do not and cannot utilise these telephones. So, it is perfectly possible that there is some optimum density. But that optimum density need not be an improvement from the present low density to something else. That may further accentuate the problems in as much as you have indicated that already because of increasing density which is indicated by more number of telephones, the problems are accentuated. So, it does seem that there is a logical catch somewhere. Unless some other statistics are given, your case is not convincing.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Have I mentioned that this is the only cause? I mentioned several. And I said that it is one of the most important causes. I have not claimed that you increase the density and automatically everything will be all right. But I do believe from my studies of a year and half not only here but also other countries that low density is one of the basic causes.

Sir, I was referring to the general problems. Now I will come to the wrong bills. There are a number of causes for this. The machine may be faulty. And I would request the hon. Members be-

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

cause I was in the same position as they are now that please visit an exchange with me once and see for yourself what the state of affairs is. It is easy to say, 'catch him'. One telephone line runs into one KM. At any point of time, it is possible for a black element to change the lines. And it can be done in a flick. To catch him is not easy. You will have to have a watchman kind of person behind the back of every employee. That is impossible. Then again the fault can be at one of the used please—it can be at the subscriber's residence, it can be in the cable or it can be in the exchange. Therefore, we have tried the flying squad. We have succeeded to a certain extent. We have tried other technical devices also. I am trying to see that diversion does not take place. Diversion is one reason of wrong bills. The other is this. I am not doubting the *bona fides* or the words of any gentleman or any citizen for that matter. But we have come across cases where people do not realise that an STD call is expensive. Sometimes it is 16 times the ordinary one. And they forget about it and talk about the rains and weather as if it is a local call.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: It is very much under lock and key. What to say about that?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: I am not referring to any hon. Member's individual case. But we have also come across some cases. I will narrate one. There is a retired ICS gentleman. He complained to us that he was getting excessive bills. We asked the officers to investigate. He being an honest man, later on he himself came to us and told us that sorry he complained. He said, I found that when I am not at home, his grand-daughter, who is a college student, goes on talking for half-an-hour or so on STD. That also is a reason I am not saying, that is the only reason.

With regard to the procedure, since last year, for the information of the hon. Members, we have introduced a new procedure and although it is circulated, may

be, some people have not read it. The new procedure is that if you get a wrong bill, your telephone will not be disconnected if you deposit what according to you is the undisputed bill. The rest will be inquired into and the meter will be...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: How can we deposit Rs. 10,000?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: You say, according to me it should be only Rs. 200 and we will accept. You say what according to you is the undisputed bill on the basis of the last two or three years bills. If you say that on the basis of my last three years bill, my bill should be only Rs. 500 we will accept it provisionally.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: But they are deducting it at source.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is there any circular like that?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: You deposit the undisputed bill. With regard to the disputed amount you write to the local officers or to me or to anyone in authority, we will inquire into that. We have a system of metering, seeing the pattern and I can tell you I have satisfied a number of M.Ps. who came to me. I showed to them that this is the pattern of their last year's metering. Now, tell me is there anything wrong? They said, the pattern is the same. Therefore, they could not complain. It is also true that there is the problem of 'spurt'. In the case of one M.P. the calls were say 100. I do not remember the exact figure. But in the next quarter it became 9,000. We ourselves said it is a 'spurt'. This is obviously wrong. This procedure is now being followed. I do not propose to deal with the complaint of wrong bills of each and every M. P. who mentioned it. They can directly write to me and we can deal with it, except Mr. Suresh Kalmadi. I think in his case no consideration should be shown because he himself has said that most of his calls are to Miss Khaparde. So, if he has gone on for talking long enough there are no wrong bills and only proper bills have been given to him.

Then, Sir, there are two or three other points which have been raised, general

points. One was raised I think by Shri Suresh Kalmadi about the recent changes made in the timings of concessional rates. Let me state this. The Committee on Communication, which is popularly known as the Sarin Committee, there were technical people in it, experts, they examined this problem and they said that a number of technical problems arise at night and therefore, they recommended that these concessional hours should be reduced. Although we have made exceptions in the case of deaths, arrivals, departures, they will be accepted but in the case of normal class, businessmen's calls, we have reduced the concessional rates on the recommendation of the Sarin Committee.

Then, Sir, my friend from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Ramakrishnan raised the question which has been raised many times about the separation of Posts and Telegraphs. Now, here again let me share my thoughts with you. It is not an easy problem. I have studied it in considerable depth. I have considered, I have pondered, I have reflected but an easy solution is not there. Why? I will tell you. There are 1.45 lakh offices, several buildings all over India, ten thousand exchanges, ten lakhs of employees. Such volume of transactions as he himself has mentioned. Now, if you decide without any further thought on separation, it may wreck the system. There will be several problems of seniority, juniority and transfers. Sir, when I was practising, I can tell you, you come from Hyderabad, you know it, after the States Reorganisation, the problem of personnel, their seniority, juniority, emoluments, several writ petitions went on and on for several years. Now, what will happen if you separate without considerable thought is that there will be litigation and that will go on for several years. Interests of several employees will be affected. And, it seems to me, Sir, that some Leftist Members may say that I am trying to divide. It seems to me that even among the trade unions there is no unanimity about the question whether P & T should be divided or kept together. The other aspect of it, is, in 1974 we divided it on circle level. Has it benefited? There is a question mark in my mind. I

look to other countries. What do I find? The countries which had separated, now are again bringing P and T together. That is not an easy problem which can be solved in a minute or a month. That is why it is taking time.

Then, Sir, the other problem is with regard to telegraph officers... (*Interruptions*) Those are all individual problems relating to a particular station; I just don't have all those figures. As I told the Speaker of the Lok Sabha when he asked me about one particular exchange, we have ten thousand of them and I told him to give me details of the particular exchange and I can attend to it. There are number of problems in local exchanges and so it will not be possible for me to deal with individual problems raised.

Then, Sir, the point raised by Mr. Jaswant Singh is about section 5 of this Act and section 26 of Postal Act. As far as Postal Act is concerned, there is a report of the Law Commission and on the basis of that, we are bringing in an amendment bill which would come before the House for consideration very soon, during this Session, and at that time this problem can be gone into, and I also will have the opportunity to reply. But let me tell the House that we propose to accept the major recommendations and some of the provisions which are characterised as objectionable, will be deleted. Just now I do not remember the exact section, but one is there about certificate from the Central Government which we have agreed to delete. So, on that, I will not say anything and when the Bill comes for discussion, I will submit my views. Then, he said about section 5 I think everybody agrees that such a power should exist. The only consideration is that it should not be misused and I am proud to say that it was my party in 1973 which brought the amendment which made the issue justiciable. Earlier section was worded in such a manner that it was not justiciable, we made it so in 1973. Similarly, section 26 of Postal Act will also be amended in that background.

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

Then one misconception is pointed out by Mr. Mohunta which I want to remove when he asked as to how we shall have telecommunication facility in all villages by 1990. I think there is some misunderstanding. What we have stated is that we have given the work of dividing India into five kilometre radius hexagons to the National Institute of Economic Growth. They will give us the hexagons; we will identify one place where telecommunication facility will be made available, and so our objective is limited in that sense. We are not saying that by 1990 everybody will get a telephone or every village will get telephone; we are saying that with resources available to us, by 1990 one telecommunication facility will be available in 5 kilometre radius and I think that barring any catastrophe, I personally think that is achievable. Therefore, we have put it as 1990. Finally, some hon. Members raised other points. I am sorry I do not agree with my friend with regard to drafting. He said section 2 sub-clause (i) there is no word like 'line'. What he probably saw was the extract given at the end of the printed Bill. If he sees the original Act there is sub-section (i) where expression 'line' appears. Then section 11(2)(c) also refers to telegraph officers and not officers. Therefore, confusion that he contemplated or the ambiguity, I think, will not arise.

In regard to amendment of section 7, which is in clause 5, sub-clause (b), it is a matter of opinion. According to him the drafting is inelegant. According to me, — and I hope, I can claim to have some knowledge of law, if not much — there is nothing wrong with the drafting. In any case — I am not saying something absurd — even supposing the word 'line' does not occur, all that may happen is that it will be redundant. The amendment says 'wherever it occurs'. If it does not occur, it does not occur. It does not matter. Therefore, basically, I think, there is nothing wrong with the drafting. Hence, no change in the drafting is necessary. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I would like to know, why the Urdu sys-

tem, which was earlier in vogue in Jammu and Kashmir has been stopped?

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: As I said, in regard to any local problems of any State or region, I will enquire into them and inform about it.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN: Please save something about the national communication policy. You said, you will lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: In regard to the national communication policy, it is true that I have said in a Press Conference that a national communication policy will be framed and placed in the next Session of Parliament. I am still hopeful. The draft is ready. But as you are aware, communication is not just telecommunication. We have to consult the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and several other Ministries which are, what is now a fashionable word, part of "Information Society". Several departments which are concerned with Information Society will have to be consulted, their views ascertained and a consensus evolved and then only I can come and say before Parliament that this is the national communication policy. I am still hoping that it may be possible for me to bring it forward in this Session.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Ramakrishnan for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee to the vote of the House.

The question is:

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha consisting of the following members, namely:—

1. Shri Dipen Ghosh
2. Shri R. Mohanaragam

3. Shri S. W. Dhabę
4. Shri Lal K. Advani
5. Shri V. Gopalsamy
6. Shri K. Ramamurthy
7. Shri Ramanand Yadav
8. Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy
9. Shri Kalayan Roy
10. Shri M. Kalyanasundaram
11. Shri R. Ramakrishnan

with instructions to report by the first week of the next Session.

The Motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): I shall now put the Motion for consideration moved by the hon. Minister.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 24 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): We shall now take up clause 1. There is one Government amendment.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That at page 1, line 4, for the figure "1983" the figure, '1984', be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): We shall now take up the Enacting Formula.

There is one Government amendment.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Thirty-fourth" the word "Thirty-fifth" be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED REHMAT ALI): The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.