## 27 Oral Answers

is the difference between a diplomatic passport and an ordinary passport. I have been the holder of both the passports. Apart from being a status symbol and apart from the facilities that one may get as Minister, I do not think there is any difference. But I would, like to be enlightened on that. Secondly, Sir, if diplomatic passports could be given to Ministers, State Ministers and heads of statutory corporations, then I do not see any reason why the Minister should only give the assurance of considering it in the case of Members of Parliament who certainly are the representatives of the sovereign will of the people and why he should not give a categorical assurance that they would certainly get diplomatic passports.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, there are three categories of passports, ordinary, official and diplomatic. Apart from the fact that the colours are different, I do not think there is any material difference.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: If you get it, won't you like to have it?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Now, you will like to have it. But when you were getting, I did not get.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: I was aware of what I was and you are aware of what you are.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a wrong impression that a person holding a diplomatic passport will not be liable to prosecution. The only difference is that when the prosecution is started, the Indian Mission will be informed. Regarding the question of giving diplomatic passports to Members of Parliament, I have given an assurance that the suggestion will oe considered. I am inclined to agree with my friend, Dr. Zakaria, that diplomatic passport is more of a status symbol.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Certain courtesies are shown in foreign countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Next question.

## Surcharge of unpaid telephone bills

to Questions

\*244. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:! SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions for imposing a surcharge on telephone bills which remains unpaid to check accumulation of arrears; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The P.C.A. in its 71st report (6th Lok Sabha) presented to Lok Sabha on 17-4-1978 has recommended that the feasibility of imposition of a surcharge over the telephone bills at the rate of 5 per cent or so may be examined where payments of the bills are not made by the scheduled dates.

(b) This will be examined.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Sir, the PAC has since given its recommendation. There are many troubles being experienced by the persons who hold the telephones because the bills sent are sometimes exaggerated and no notice is given before the disconnection is made. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is willing to agree to the PAC recommendations or whether they have any other suggestion before them in this connection.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia. 29

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : तमा-पति जी, जो रिकमण्डेशन पी०ए०सी० ने दी है. उसको हम एक्जामिन कर रहे हैं। इसके ताथ ही एक्सेस विलिय की जो जिंकायतें हैं उनको हम दूर करने की कोजिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री सवाई सिंह सिंसोविया: श्रीमन्, मेरा प्रण्न दह थ। कि बहुत से बिल गलत होत हैं ग्रीर डिमकर्नवट करने से पहले विभाग उनका नोटिस नहीं देता है। क्या विभाग डम बोज को जरूरी नहीं समझता है? ग्राम लोगों की जिकायत है कि विल ज्यादा ग्राता है। डिसकनेक्ट होने के बाद कनेक्शन लेने में बहुत पैसा खर्च होता है, बहुत समय खर्च होता है। तो का विभाग यह जरूरी नहीं समजता कि डिमकनेक्ट करने से पहले नोटिम दिया जाय ग्रीर उनको मौका दिया जाय। उसके बाद सग-चार्ज वग्ली बात सोचें। यदि ऐसी व्यवस्था हो जाय तो ग्राम लोगों को उससे मुविधा होगी ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it your second supplementary?

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA-. He has not replied the first one. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the second one also. He will reply together.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Let him reply to this. Sir. If there is any necessity, then I will put another supplementary.

श्वी नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : श्रीमन्. सर वार्ज के विषय में जैसा कि मैंने कहा गालन इस के बारे में एक्जामिन कर रहा है। दूसरे जो विल्स हैं, एक्सेस विलिग जो होती है उनमें यह है कि विल देने के वाद उनके भुगतान के लिये इस दिन का समय दिया जाता है। इस ग्रवधि में यदि बिल का भुग-तान नहीं किया जाता तो हम उनको 15 दिन ग्रीर देत हैं ग्रीर उनके वाद उनको टेलीफोनिक मैंसेज या इन्फार्मेशन हम लोग देते हैं कि ग्रापने बिल का भुगतान नहीं किया है, इमलिये हम कनैक्शन काट रहे हैं।

to Questions

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसौदिया : श्रीमन्, मैं मन्त्री जी से फिर द्वारा वही वात प्रछना चाहता हूं कि जो टेलीफोन का बिल जाता है, उनमें 10 दिन का समय होता है और ददि 10 दिन की अवधि में यह पेमेंट नहीं होता हे तो टेलीफोन डिस्फनेक्ट कर दिया जाता है। डिसकनेक्ट करने से पहले नोटिस नहीं दिया जाता है। आप इसकी जांच भरवाइये ग्रीर फिर इसका जवाब दें। मेरा यह कहना है कि बहुत से टेलीफोन कनेक्शन जो दिये जाते हैं जनको एक्सेस विल एिये जाते हैं ग्रीर जो सब्सकाइवर होता है उनको इस गलती का जुमौना भुगतना पटना है। इसका ग्राप जवाब दे ग्रीर इस स्पष्ट घरे। ग्रापको चाहिए कि म्राप ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहलियतें सब्सकाइवर्स को दें और उनको विसी तरह की परेशानी न हो, ऐसा ग्रापका उद्देध्य होना चाहिए ।

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : सभापति जी, विभाग द्वारा ऐसा कोई काम नहीं किया जाता जिससे सब्मकाडवर्स परेकान हो। यह नियम है कि बिल देने के बाद 15 रिन-मैंने इन्ते 10 दिन कहा था, वह 15 रिन है-तक अगर पेमेंट नहीं का ते हैं तो टेलीफोन डिसकनेक्ट नहीं होता। अगर 15 दिन के बाव करते हैं.....

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदियाः इन्फानॅशन देने हें या नहीं?

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई: मैंने कहा है कि टेलीफोनिक नोटिस देते हैं, एनको इन्फ़ामें शन देते हैं। इसके बौद्द भी ग्रगर विल का पेमेंट नहीं किया जाता है तब ही हन लोग डिसकनेक्ट करते हैं और डिसवनेक्ट होने के वाल ग्रगर 15 दिन में भुगतान कर दिया जाता है ता उसके री-कर्नक्शन के लिये 25 रुपए फीस है और ग्रगर 15 दिन के बाद पेमेंट होगा तो 50 रुपए रीखनेवधान की फीस होती है।

भी सवाई सिंह सिसोविया : री-कनेक्शन में 50 रुपए देने के बाद भी 3 महीने लगते हैं।

श्वी गुरुदेव गुप्त : सभापति जी, मैं मन्त्री महोध्य में यह अनना सहता हूं कि गामकीय प्रतिष्ठानों ग्रोप णामकीय कार्यालयों के अपर टेलोफोन दिलों की फिल्मी धनराणि वकारा है ग्रीर अम धनराणि को वगूल करने के लिये अन्होंने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

## श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : श्रीमन्, इस केलिये नोटित जोहिए।

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: Sir, the question is that if telephone bills are not paid in a particular time, the PA.C. has recommended that the Government should impose a surcharge of 5 per cent on such bills. Is there any such proposal under the consideration of the Government? If it is so, will the Government also consider the proposal to give a rebate to a subscriber when his telephone remains out of order for a particular number of days?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a suggestion for action.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Is the Government aware how many Members of Parliament there are who do not draw any salary at all because all that money they have to pay towards the clearance of their telephone bills? Moreover, there is no means by which the number of calls that they make could be checked. In addition, they are required to pay for a large number of calls that may not have been made by the Members themselves.

SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA: Sir, the meter indicates the number of calls that they make and they are charged accordingly. (Interruptions) SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Your meters are defective.

SHRI MANUBHAI MOTILAL PATEL: Sir, has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that a certain type of mischief is being played in the telephone exchanges? For instance, when they know that a certain Member of Parliament has gone out of Delhi, his line is connected with some other telephone from where calls are made and they are metered on the telephone of that particular MP. Has this thing come to the notice of the hon. Minister and is his Ministry going to check this malpractice?

SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA; No such thing has come to my notice. If a specific complaint of this type is made, I will look into it.

Concern expressed by the Tibetan Welfare Association regarding autonomy for Tibet

\*245. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:! SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tibetan Welfare Association has expressed concern against any possible compromise with the Peoples Republic of China on the question of autonomy for Tibet;

(b) if so, what are the details in this, regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE): (a) and (b) A Memorandum,

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Guru-dev Gupta.

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