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: S1r, 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 ne 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

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS 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.

 \dagger The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sawaisingh Sisodia. श्री नरहरी प्रप्ताद सुखदेव सई . समा-पति जी, जा रिकमण्डेशन पी०ए०सी० ने दी है. उसको हम एक्जामिन कर रहे है। इसके ताथ ही एक्सेम दिलिग की जो शिकायने हैं उनको हम दूर करने की कोशिश कर रहे है।

श्री सवाई सिंह सिंसोदिया : श्रीमन्, मेरा प्रश्न वह थ। कि बहुत स बिल गनत हाते हैं ग्रीर डिसकर्नकट करने से पहले विभाग उनका नोटिम नही देता है । क्या विभाग इस चोज को जरूरी नहीं समझता है ? ग्राम लोगों की शिकायत है कि विल ज्यादा ग्राता है । डिम फ्नेक्ट होने के बाद कनेक्शन लेने में बहुत पैसा खर्च होता है, बहुत समय खर्च होता है । तो क्या विभाग यह जरूरी नहीं समनता कि डिमकनेक्ट करने से पहले नोटिम दिया जाब ग्रीर उनको मौका दिया जाय । उस ह बाद मर-चार्ज वाली बात सोचें । यदि ऐसी व्यवस्था हो जाय तो ग्राम लोगों को उससे सुविधा 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.

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : श्रीभन्. सर वार्ज के विषय में जैसा कि मैने कहा शासन इन के वारे में एक्फामिन कर रहा है। दूसरे जो विल्स हैं, एक्सेस विलिंग जो होती है उनमें यह है कि विल देने के वाद उसके भुगतान के लिये इस दिन का समय दिया जाता है। इस अवधि में यदि बिल का भुग-तान नहीं किया जाता तो हम उप्तो 15 दिन और देत है और उसके बाद उप्तो टेलीफोनिक भैसेज या इन्फार्मेशन हम लोग देते हैं कि ग्रापने विल का भुगतान नही किया है, इसलिये हम कनैक्शन काट रहे है ।

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसौदिया: श्रीमन्, मैं मन्त्री जी से फिर द्वारा वही वात पछना चाहता हूं कि जो टेलीफोन का बिल जाता है, उसमे 10 दिन का समय होता है ग्रौर ददि 10 दिन की ग्रवधि में यह पेमेट नहीं होता हे तो टेलीफोन डिस्फनेक्ट कर दिया जाता है। डिसकनेक्ट कम्ने से पहले नोटिस नहीं दिया जाता है। ग्राप इसकी जांच करवाइये **ग्रौर फिर इसका जत्राब दे। मेरा यह कहना** है कि बहुत से टेलीफोन कनेक्शन जो दिये जाते है उनको एक्सेम जिल सिये जाते है श्रीर जो सब्सकाइवर होता है उनको इस गलती का जमोना भगतना पटना है। इसका आप जवाब दे और इस स्पन्ट घरे। आपको चाहिए कि ग्राप ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहलिमते सब्सकाइदर्स को दें ग्रींग उनको विसी तग्ह की परेशानी न हो, ऐसा ग्रापका उदेश्य होना चाहिए ।

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : सभापति जी, विभाग द्वारा ऐमा कोई काम नही किया जाता जिससे सब्मकाडवर्म परेकान हो । यह नियम है कि बिल देने के वाद 15 टिन---मैंने ।हले 10 दिन कहा था, वह 15 दिन है---तक ग्रगर पेमेंट नहीं करते है तो टेर्लाफोन डिसकनेक्ट नहीं होता । ग्रगर 15 दिन के बाद करते हैं...

श्री सचाई सिंह सिसोदिया : इन्फार्मेणन देते है या नही ?

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद मुखदेव सई: मैने कहा है कि टेलीफोनिक नोटिस देते है, जनको इन्फार्मेशन देते है। इसके बाद भी अगर बिल का पेमेंट नहो किया जाता है तब ही हुन लोग डिसकनेक्ट करने हैं और डिसबनेक्ट होने के बाद प्रगर 15 दिन में भुगतान कर दिया जाता है ता उसके री-कनैक्शन के लिये 25 रुपए फीस है और अगर 15 दिन के

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बाद पेमेंट होगा तो 50 रुपए री-कनेक्शन की फीस होती है।

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसौदिया : री-कनेक्शन में 50 रुपए देने के वाद भी 3 महीने लगते हैं।

श्री गुरुदेव गुप्त : मभापति जी, मैं मन्वी भहोव्य से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि शासकीय प्रतिष्ठानों ग्रीर जासकीय कार्यालयों के ऊपर टेलोफान विलों की किल्नी धनराजि बकाया है ग्रीर उम्प धनराजि को वसूल करने के लिये उन्होंने क्या कार्यवाही को है ?

श्री नरहरी प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : श्रीमन्, इस केलिये नोटिस चाहिए।

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: Sir, the question is that if telephone bills are not paid in a particular time, the P.A.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 M.P. 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,

†The question was actually asked on. the floor of the House by Shri Gurudev Gupta.