Bifurcation of Department of Telecom Services

207. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
    SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
    SH J. CHITRIHARANJAN:
    SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
    DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that an independent Department of Telecom Operations (DTO) is being sought to be carved out of the persent Department of Telecom Services (DTS) as widely reported in the Press;

if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

the respective purviews of DTS and proposed DTO;

whether this will lead to duplication, confusion and uncertainty which will work to the advantage of the private operaters in the emerging competitive environment; and

whether this will be in keeping with the principle of rightsizing Government Department which is the present overall policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A new Department of Telecom Operations (DTO) has been set up *vide* a notification dated 17th July, 2000 published on 19th July, 2000.

(b) and (c) Under the new arrangement, The Department of Telecom Services (DTS) will look after all matters relating to the Corporatisation of the Department of Operations and the Department of Telecom Services, all matters relating to personnel in the Department of Telecom Services and Telecom Operations, relating to or having a bearing on Corporatisation and MTNL, VSNL, etc. The newly created Department of Telecom Operations (DTO) will look after all matters other than policy and licensing relating to operations of Telephones, wireless, data, facsimile and telematic and other like forms of telecommunications, execution of works including purchase and acquisition of land debitable to the capital Budget pertaining to telecommunications, etc. On corporatisation of both these temporary departments, the residual work, if any, will stand allocated to Department of Telecommunications.

Some Unions of the telecom sector had given a notice for strike on 28.6.2000. After consideration of their demands, (following which most of them agreed to

82

withdraw their strike notice), the Government had agreed to consider bifurcating the Department of Telecom Services into two Departments, *i.e.* Department of Telecom Services and Department of Telecom Operations, and that the Secretary of the newly created Department of Telecom Operations will be from the ITS Cadre.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. The DTS and the DTO are to be serviced by the existing personnel of the DTS.

Working of Copper-alloy Strip Manufacturing Unit in GOA

208. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the IDBI and IFCI have given huge foreign currency loans to copper alloy strip manufacturing unit in Goa;

whether it is also a fact that the unit has utilised the precious foreign currency and started production but is not being forced to shut down the factory on account of violence by some miscreants on flimsy ground; and

if so what steps Government are taking to ensure smooth working of the plant so that public money of financial institution in foreign currency does not go down the drain, putting further strain on the exchequer?

THE MINISTER TO STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) IDBI and IFCI have an exposure in copper strip manufacturing unit in Goa. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Nationalisation of Banks

209. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of knowledge of the Schemes, the nationalisation of Banks did not bring about the desired result of economic independence for the poor especially the small and medium peasants and women in rural areas;