

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The hon. Member will have the opportunity to discuss this policy matter a little later today.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that not only in African countries are the Chinese carrying on vigorous anti-Indian propaganda, but in Southeast Asian countries also they are doing it and the impact of the propaganda that is carried on by our Embassies in Africa and other countries has not been felt? And may I ask whether the Government would revise their attitude and take proper steps in this matter?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The Chinese are carrying on propaganda in South-east Asia also, as I have already said at the beginning; and we are doing our best there also.

ARREARS OF TELEPHONE BILLS

***739. SHRI RAM SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge arrears of telephone bills remain unrealised; and

(b) if so, the break-up of the arrears according to Ministries and Ministers of the Government of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) As on 1st August 1964, the outstanding, in respect of bills issued upto 31st January, 1964, was Rs. 3.05 crores.

(b) The information is not available and its compilation will involve considerable time and enormous labour.

SHRI RAM SINGH: Is this figure of Rs. 3.05 crores only for the Ministries or does it relate to all over India?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: It is for the whole country.

श्री बिमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
क्या श्रीमान यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इतना अधिक बकाया हो चुका है और इसमें बहुत सा ऐसा है जो कि सन् 1957 ई० से पहिले का भी है, ऐसी स्थिति में इतना बकाया क्यों हो जाता है, ऐसा बकाया रखने वालों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की जाती है और उसे वसूल करने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न किया जाता है।

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: A number of new measures are being taken to deal with this problem of outstandings. Recently orders have been issued to disconnect all telephone connections of the subscribers, both private and government, who have not paid their dues within the prescribed period.

SHRI ABID ALI: What is the amount out of this sum of Rs. 3.05 crores due from the government officers? That is (a). And (b) why are bills sent so late to the telephone subscribers? As a matter of fact bills for February and March for trunk telephones are now being received by us. What is the reason for this delay?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: As regards the first part, it is very difficult to say, as I have already stated, in how many cases the outstandings lie with the Government and in how many cases they lie with private subscribers. That is because the accounts for telephone revenues are maintained on telephone number basis or telephone numberwise. So, it is very difficult to classify the government and private outstandings. It will take much time. I can say that broadly speaking, about 50 per cent. is the outstanding due from government subscribers. As regards the delay in billing I can say that in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, bills have been issued up to October,

1964. After that bills are being issued for this period also. I agree that there is some delay in billing at present in some cases, but we have tried to expedite billing as far as practicable. A new mechanised system of handling telephone billing has been introduced in Calcutta on an experimental basis and if it proves successful that system of mechanised billing and accounting will be introduced in other parts also.

झंडा दिवस पर एकत्र किया गया धन

*७०. श्री राम सहाय : क्या प्रति-
रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस वर्ष झंडा दिवस पर सैनिकों के कल्याणार्थ में कितना धन एकत्र किया गया; और

(ख) इस निधि में कितना धन है और उस का उपयोग किस प्रकार होता है ?

†[MONEY COLLECTED ON FLAG DAY

*740. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected this year on the Flag Day for the welfare of the soldiers; and

(b) the amount of money available in this fund and the manner in which it is utilised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. D. S. RAJU): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The amount of collections received so far on the Armed Forces Flag Day 1964 is about Rs. 6 lakhs. Full information is not available yet as remittances are expected from

various States and administrations and our Missions and posts abroad and this will take time. The accounts of the Flag Day Fund 1964 are kept open from 1st July 1964 to 30th June, 1965.

(b) From every year's collection 10 per cent. is kept in the Central Reserve, 45% is distributed back to the State Governments and Local Administrations and the remaining 45 to the Services Headquarters, Indian Red Cross Society and some other organisations.

The State Governments and Local Administrations utilise the money at their disposal for the relief of ex-servicemen and their families. The Services Headquarters utilise 70 per cent. of the money placed at their disposal for alleviation of distress of individual ex-servicemen by way of recurring grants varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 25 per month or lump sum grants generally not exceeding Rs. 100. They use the remaining 30 per cent. for providing amenities to serving personnel such as sports gear, magazine, radios, gramophones, etc. The Central reserve of the Flag Day Fund has, however, been allowed to accumulate and at present the amount standing in the Central reserve is about Rs. 17,96,000. It is meant to be utilised to supplement the annual quotas distributed to the various authorities if the collections of any particular Flag Day happen to be small.

†[रक्षा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (ड० डी० एन० राज) : (क) तथा (ख) एक विवरण सभा के पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) सशस्त्र सेनाओं के 1964 के झंडा दिवस पर, अब तक प्राप्त हो चुकी,