

STATEMENT

District	Para 'a' Telephone Provided		Para 'b' Waiting list upto June 96	Para 'd' Additional Telephone lines to be provided during the year 1996-97
	1995-96	1996-97 upto 31.10.96		
Raigad	7507	5211	6516	7000
Jalgaon	8569	1716	10616	5800
Nasik	12638	2970	22829	15300
Dhule	2302	990	12634	4700
Kolhapur	20294	3057	9706	4400
Solapur	6402	2701	8581	8800
Satara	3900	1608	6973	5800
Sangli	9009	3108	13155	7000
Ratnagiri	3323	450	5132	1800
Sindhudurg	1705	362	2696	1500
A'Nagar	9200	1969	12634	9200
A'bad	8110	2118	8749	7600
Jalana	1512	257	1418	700
Latur	5390	1455	3411	3000
Osmanabad	1710	638	1379	1200
Nanded	3010	312	2040	2700
Parbhani	2173	868	1391	1600
Beed	2520	326	1324	1700
Pune	33042	17810	54220	39500
Goa	21126	1045	12968	10000
Nagpur	22050	5369	13258	13000
Kalyan	12280	1444	57301	36000
Akola	5286	1663	2670	3900
Amravati	4702	1243	3457	3700
Bhandara	2467	962	1765	1100
Buldhana	2220	466	1540	1000
Chandrapur	2053	737	2397	2500
Gadchiroli	215	116	348	
Wardha	1569	1351	1751	1500
Yeotamal	1680	352	2420	1000

Capacity Utilisation in Haryana

306. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Haryana where the capacity utilisation is below optimum utilisation level;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the capacity utilisation;

(d) the number of villages in Haryana where telephone facility is not available, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide the telephone facility to those villages;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the number of letters received by the Government for providing telephone facilities in the villages from the Members of Parliament from Haryana; and

(h) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). In Haryana Telecom Circle, there are 599 telephone exchanges mostly in the rural areas where the installed capacity is not presently utilised fully. The major reason being that as per departmental policy, a new exchange in a rural area is opened based on a registered demand of only 10 connections. This is to encourage and augment communication facility in rural areas of the country. The minimum installed capacity of such exchanges is 56/88 lines, which is filled up progressively as the demand for more connections is received. Some capacity is also to be kept unutilised for technical reasons including testing and maintenance purpose and also to meet urgent unforeseen demands. Efforts are always made to load these exchanges to their optimum level.

(d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. All the villages are planned to be covered during 1996-97.

(g) No letters have been received from Members of Parliament from Haryana, in this regard.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of District	No. of villages not provided with Telephone facilities
1.	Ambala (including Panchcula)	39
2.	Bhiwani	72
3.	Faridabad	145
4.	Gurgaon	358
5.	Hissar	5
6.	Jind	31
7.	Karnal	121
8.	Kaithal	159
9.	Kurukshetra	111
10.	Mahendergarh	130
11.	Panipat	69
12.	Rewari	76
13.	Rohtak	40
14.	Sirsa	3
15.	Sonepat	3
16.	Yamunanagar	300
Total		1562

Norms to Improve Safety of Private Airlines

307. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up norms to improve safety standards of private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of inspections conducted by the safety audit team of Director General, Civil Aviation during the last one year and action taken in the matter where deficiencies were observed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Safety norms are laid down in various regulatory documents. These are applicable to all airlines, including private airlines. The safety norms are continuously updated.

(c) During the last one year (from October 1995 till date) Directorate General of Civil Aviation carried out the safety audit of Jagson Airlines, Mesco Airlines and Air India. The deficiencies pointed out in the safety audit were brought to the notice of the operators for taking necessary remedial in-house measures.

Declaration of Sunderbans as an International Tourist Spot

308. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to declare 'Sunderbans' of West Bengal as an International Tourist Spot; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The Development of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Department of Tourism extends financial assistance every year for the projects received from the State Governments, including West Bengal, on the basis of their merits and inter se priority. During 1988-89, Rs. 49.50 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of West Bengal to purchase a cruise vessel for the Sunderbans.

Tourism Industry Affected by Dengue Epidemic

309. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism industry was adversely affected by the out-break of Dengue epidemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total loss suffered by the tourism industry due to this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The tourist arrivals during the month of October 1996 registered an overall increase of 2.8% over the corresponding month of previous year. It is, however, difficult to estimate the exact impact of Dengue on tourist arrivals on the whole.