

- (b) whether the Union Government have also received a report on said project from the Government of Bihar;
- (c) if so, the present status thereof; and
- (d) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Feasibility reports for 2 x 30 MW power projects at Gaya and Chakai were received from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in 1989. BSEB had proposed setting up of these projects based on line focussing solar thermal collector technology. It was suggested then to Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) to modify the feasibility reports based on recorded meteorological data for the site.

(c) and (d) Generation of power through solar thermal route is a new technology, which is quite capital intensive. Accordingly, it is first proposed to take up an R&D-cum-Demonstration project at village Mathania in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Subsequent projects could be considered after the techno-economic viability of the technology is established.

[English]

Telecom Facilities in Maharashtra

1646. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI R.S. GAVALI:

SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Maharashtra as on October 30, 1998 District-wise;
- (b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years in Maharashtra, particularly in Ahmadnagar, Vidharbha, Gargotti and Bridargarh regions;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for the speedy allotment of telephone connections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of telephone exchanges to be opened in Vidharbha region during the current financial year;

(f) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be made functional;

(g) whether telephone in Gargotti and Bridargarh regions under Kolhapur District are working in order;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the time by which these are likely to be in the working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Information is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided during the last three years in Maharashtra, including MTNL, Mumbai and that provided in Ahmednagar, Vidharbha, Gargotti and Bridargarh regions separately are given in the attached statement-II.

(c) and (d) Government have formulated proposals to make telephone available on demand by the year 2002. Targets for provision of telephones are being fixed every year as per demand of telephone to achieve this objective. This is being done by expanding existing exchanges and opening of new exchanges as per demand.

(e) It is proposed to open 26 new telephone exchanges with total capacity of about 5000 lines in Vidharbha region during the current financial year.

(f) These exchanges are likely to be made functional by March, 1999.

(g) to (i) Telephones in Gargotti and Bridargarh regions under Kolhapur District are working satisfactorily, barring normal interruptions, especially during rainy season.

Statement-I

Waiting list of telephone connections in Maharashtra, including MTNL, Mumbai as on 31.10.98

Sl. No.	Telecom District	Revenue Districts Covered	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Raigad	Raigad	1877
2.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	5459
3.	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	2652
4.	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	14858

1	2	3	4
5.	Nasik	Nasik	23727
6.	Dhule	Dhule, Nandurbar	9201
7.	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	8322
8.	Solapur	Solapur	9450
9.	Satara	Satara	6607
10.	Sangli	Sangli	11894
11.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	19470
12.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	10083
13.	Jalna	Jalna	1550
14.	Latur	Latur	5472
15.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	1613
16.	Nanded	Nanded	5812
17.	Parbhani	Parbhani	2354
18.	Beed	Beed	4054
19.	Pune	Pune	55355
20.	Nagpur	Nagpur	7953
21.	Kalyan	Kalyan	52586
22.	Akola	Akila, Washim	4916
23.	Amravati	Amravati	5450
24.	Bhandara	Bhandara	2327
25.	Buldana	Buldana	2677
26.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur, Gadchiroli	5180
27.	Wardha	Wardha	3304
28.	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	4308
29.	MTNL, Mumbai		NIL

Statement-II

Number of telephone connection provided in Maharashtra, including Mumbai (MTNL) during the last three years

Number of telephone connections provided during last three years

Year	No. of connections provided (in lakhs)	Number of telephone connections provided during last three years			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
		1	2	3	4
1995-96	4.00	Ahmednagar	9200	10101	9509
1996-97	4.41	Vidarbha Region (Consists of Akola, Washim, Amravati, Bhandara, Buldhana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Wardha and Yeotmal Telecom Districts.)	42354	40726	42815
1997-98	4.89				

1	2	3	4
Kolapur Telecom District (Gargoti and Bridargarh regions are part of this telecom District)	20553	14015	12721

[Translation]

Internet Facility

1647. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

KUMARI KIM GANGTE:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the names of the cities connected with 'Internet';
- whether there is any proposal to connect Deoria and Ballia districts in U.P. and Manipur and other North Eastern States with internet;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The cities where Internet Nodes are working are as per Statement. However the Internet access to the nearest Internet Nodes is being made available on local call rates progressively with effect from 15th August, 1998.

- Yes, Sir.
- Deoria and Ballia have Internet access on local call basis from Allahabad.

Procurement of Internet Nodes for Manipur and other NE State capitals and District Head Quarters are being connected to the nearest Internet node on local call basis.

- In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

Statement

List of Cities Having Internet Nodes

Ambala, Aurangabad, Agra Allahabad, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Calicut, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Gwalior, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Hubli, Indore, Jaipur, Chennai, Calcutta, Dhanbad, Dehradun, Delhi, Ernakulam, Goa, Jamshedpur, Jammu, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Kancheepuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Lucknow, Mysore, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik, Patna, Palghat, Pondicherry, Pune, Shillong, Silchar, Silliguri, Surat, Shimla, Trichy, Trivandrum, Vijayawada, Vishkapatnam.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Bihar

1648. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the number of telephone connections allotted in Bihar during the last three years, till-date;
- the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;
- whether the department is not issuing new telephone connections in the State due to non-availability of material;
- If so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide telephone connections to all the persons on the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The number of telephone connections provided in Bihar during the last three years, till date is given below:

Year	Connections provided
1995-96	33115
1996-97	52368
1997-98	66294
1998-99 (1.4.98-30.11.98)	32510
	184287

(b) The Number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in Bihar, district-wise as on 30.11.98, is as per statement attached.

- No, Sir.

- Not applicable.

(e) Action is being taken to provide telephone connections to all the persons on the waiting list by expanding exchanges of higher capacity and opening of small and medium type exchanges and by laying more under ground cables for providing telephone connections to meet the demand.