

- (b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the telecom services in the country; and
 (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) Some Unrecognised Unions of DOT launched a one day Token Strike for settlement of their pending demands. The demand that there should be no corporatisation of DOT is only one of the demands. However, the question of privatisation figuring now in the Lok Sabha Question does not find a place in their demands.

(b) On the day of Token Strike i.e. 12.11.98, the local/STD/ISD services through-out the country remained normal. However, in the Manual Trunk Services and Telegraph Services, the work was affected in Calcutta Telephone District and moderately in some parts of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam Circles. In the remaining Circles, the position was reported to be, by and large normal.

- (c) Their demands are being examined.

Assistance to J&K

1724. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of J&K seeking Central assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by the union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Monitoring Mechanism

1725. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce new monitoring mechanism for the proper utilisation of all plan fund in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The monitoring mechanisms adopted for the purpose of proper utilisation of Plan funds is not State-specific. The Planning Commission, in conjunction with the concerned Union Ministries/Departments, oversees the progress in Plan expenditure in all States, including Arunachal Pradesh, on a systematic basis.

2. The performance of major Plan projects/schemes and of programmes like Basic Minimum Services, for which outlays are earmarked, is reviewed periodically through field visits and inter-actions with the relevant authorities at various levels in order that the available funds are utilised properly for speedy implementation of the development programmes.

[Translation]

Public Telephones in Villages

1726. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAY (JHANJHARPUR):

SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village in Bihar and Sikkim where telephone facility is not available;

(b) the number of villages where telephone lines have been provided, connected by tower system and cables lines, separately in these States; and

(c) the time by which the work of laying of cables are likely to be completed in the villages linked with tower system?

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

(a) Bihar: 60120 Villages

Sikkim: 210 Village.

(b) The village public telephones provided in Bihar and Sikkim on the Tower System and Cable Lines are as below:

State	Telephones on	Telephones on
	Tower System	Cable Lines
Bihar	10381	8379
Sikkim	62	155

(c) There is no plan to lay cable in the villages linked with tower system.

[English]

Telephone Facility in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1727. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone facility in the tribal areas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli is non-existent and the people are facing a lot of difficulties and inconveniences;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the number of PCOs functioning in Dadra and Nagar Haveli at present, district-wise;