

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

S.No.	State	Waiting List of Telephone connections
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep U.T.)	590330
10.	Madhya Pradesh	62223
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	388276
12.	North East (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14920
13.	Orissa	23057
14.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh U.T.)	228129
15.	Rajasthan	188753
16.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry U.T.)	442902
17.	Uttar Pradesh	178104
18.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	156759
19.	Delhi	73861

Inclusion of Vidarbha Region News at Mumbai Doordarshan

1093 SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether news of Vidarbha region is not included in the regional news bulletin telecast from Mumbai everyday;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to ensure sufficient coverage for this region.

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to set up production studio and upgrade the supporting facilities at Doordarshan centre Nagpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). News items relating to Vidarbha region are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai depending on their news value and news worthiness within the existing infrastructural facilities.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The existing programme generating facility at Nagpur is being upgraded to a 150 Sc. Mts. Studio set up along with associated technical and office areas. The project is expected to be completed during 1997.

Telecom Projects

1094 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made under major telecom projects in major cities awarded in favour of private companies and details on financial and time stipulations and actual progress made vis-a-vis-targets.

(b) whether the telcom projects/policies have received a set-back because of reported scams in award of telecommunication projects;

(c) if so, the steps taken to formulate transparent policies and streamline procedure in implementation of privatisation programme envisaged in communication sector.

(d) steps taken/proposed to make financing of basic phone ventures attractive for financial institutions and details of policy changes finalised/under consideration.

(e) whether Artheya Committee has submitted its report on restructuring of communication sector, and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No major telecom project has been awarded to private companies. However licences for operation of Value Added Services have been awarded. No licence for Basic Telephone Service has been awarded so far.

(b) No Sir, there has been no set-back to telecom projects/policies

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The Government is considering to make suitable provision in the Licence Agreement of Basic Telephone Services for enabling the use of Licence for the limited purpose of securitisation of the debt obtained by the perspective licences from the Financial Institutions so