

as to facilitate financing of their project for provision of Basic telephone Service in their respective allocated Telecom Circles.

(e) The Athreya Committee did not make unanimous recommendations. The Committee recognised the need for separating the "policy and regulation" tier from the "operations" tier in any future structure but was divided on the form of future organisation of the Department of Telecommunications.

(f) The recommendations in respect of corporatisation were not pursued in view of the financial implications involved and reservations expressed by telecom staff as also in the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1994, envisaging duopoly in basic services which would be provided by a Government and a private operator in each circle.

[Translation]

Phone Mechanic Cadre Post

1095. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have created a new cadre of Phone Mechanic in DoT, particularly in MTNL, Delhi;

(b) whether training for the post has been given to employees;

(c) if so, the number thereof and amount spent thereon, circle-wise;

(d) whether all the trained employees have posted as per their posts

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which their services are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A cadre of Phone Mechanic has been created in DoT including MTNL, Delhi.

(b) The training is under progress.

(c) Training for the cadre of Phone Mechanic is imparted in Departmental Training Centres along with other cadres. No separate budget allocation is made for individual cadres. The number of employees trained Circle-wise is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

(f) Due to non-availability of required number of posts.

(g) This depends upon the workload. No definite timeframe can be given.

STATEMENT

Status of Phone Mechanic - Training

S.No.	Circle	No. of officials to be trained	No. of officials trained
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	35	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9365	3900
3.	Assam	1899	995
4.	Bihar	1429	1397
5.	Haryana	1255	930
6.	Himachal Pradesh	772	640
7.	Gujarat	5210	3057
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	900	864
9.	Karnataka	4580	2525
10.	Kerala	8547	743
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1650	1252
12.	Maharashtra	6657	2953
13.	North-East Region	501	401
14.	Orissa	2185	965
15.	Punjab	1928	1729
16.	Rajasthan	2085	1476
17.	Tamil Nadu	8954	3058
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	4673	3781
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3158	2302
20.	West Bengal	4451	1930
21.	MTNL Mumbai	4731	1986
22.	MTNL New Delhi	2970	1617
23.	Calcutta Telephones	3235	2182
24.	Chennai Telephones	3669	1097

[English]

New Exchanges

1096. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges during 1997-98, and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.