

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:209
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
TELEPHONE FACILITY
VISHNU DATT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to meet the increasing demand of communication/telephone in rural, far-flung areas and urban areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the priority accorded and supply of essential equipments for installation of rural telephone exchange and provide connectivity to all villages and panchayats with STD/ISD/PCO's network;
- (c) the reason for delay in implementation of the policy for rural connectivity;
- (d) whether the Union Government propose to provide telephone connectivity to all villages far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir State on priority basis as per the situation of the State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government plans to install 3331 exchanges during the current financial year with a switching capacity of 25.08 lakhs lines to provide 13.79 lakhs DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) in rural areas and switching capacity of 41.2 lakhs lines to provide 39.30 lakhs DELs in the urban areas of the country.

The Department has taken all necessary action for supply of exchange equipments and other essential items such as power plan, battery, MDFs and underground cables etc. for installation in rural and urban areas. These exchanges will provide telephone connections, VPTs and STD/ISD/PCOs to the villages and panchayats.

The connectivity in rural areas depends upon the availability of appropriate technology and essential infrastructure i.e. suitable accommodation, reliable electric supply, easy transportation etc. which, in some cases is taking time to organize.

(d) & (e): The Government proposes to provide telephone facility in all the villages including far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir. 3,865 villages out of 6,764 villages have already been provided with telecom facility till 31.10.2000. Special priority has been accorded to J&K Circle in providing INMARSAT Mini-m satellite terminals for far-flung areas. All the remaining villages in the State of J&K are planned to be covered by March, 2002.

(f): Does not arise in view of reply to para (d) & (e) above.