

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4473

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000

CENTRE FOR C-DOT

GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAGHUNATH JHA;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) and the Dept. of Telecommunication (DoT) have come in for severe criticism by the Controller and Auditor General of India for investing Rs 3.81 crore in a technology which become obsolete ever before implementation;
- (b) if so, whether C-DOT had adopted the Satellite Based Rural Telegraph Network in 1986 to fulfill the need of adequate telegraphic facilities in rural areas of North East region; (
- (c) if so, whether even before the network could be put into place through 50 rural telegraph terminals, a more modern and sophisticate multi channel radio system replaced the SBRTN in 1994, rendering waste the Rs 3.71 crore investment; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such wasteful expenditure in future?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir. CAG have observed in their report No. 5 of 2000 (Scientific Departments) for the year ended March 1999 that technology developed by C-DOT became obsolete even before adoption and DOT incurred wasteful expenditure of Rs 3.81 crore on an obsolete technology

(b) Based on conceptualization of the project by Planning Commission, this Satellite Based Rural Telegraph Network (SBRTN) project for North East Region was designed and developed indigenously by erstwhile Telecom Research Centre (TRC) Society and Space Application Centre (SAC) between 1986-89 and productionised by Indian Telephone Industry (ITI)After the merging of TRC (Society) with C-DOT, the project was adopted as a natural transfer to it from TRC Society .

(c) No Sir. The development and fabrication of 50 rural telegraph terminals and the network for the same was a pilot phase of the project having a provision of 1000 terminals in future. However, at a later stage, the user preferred to have additional feature which meant a completely new design in terms of time and investment as the product had already been developed, proto-tested and production cleared by 1989. The project was not continued after the development stage. Technologies in Telecommunications have been changing at a fast pace. Therefore in any R&D activity it is but natural that all developmental projects do not necessarily culminate in commercially deployable product and it would not be correct to treat such expenditure as wasteful.

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