

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4349
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE NETWORK
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for opening of long distance telephone network in rural areas of the country during 2000-2001;
- (b) the extent of said target achieved;
- (c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations for opening of long distance telephone network in the rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Based on the recommendation of TRAI, the Government has announced guidelines for entry of private sector into National Long Distance Service in August,2000. There is open and free competition without any restriction on the number of entrants. The guidelines provide for coverage of 2%, 4%, 7% and all uneconomic and remote areas in 2 years, 3 years, 4 years and 5-7 years respectively from the effective date. Coverage of remote and uneconomic areas has also been incorporated on the basis of recommendations from TRAI.