

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:146
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
PRIVATE TELEPHONE OPERATORS
RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private telephone operators have signed any agreement to render their services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the target fixed in this regard;
- (d) the number of telephones provided by each said operators during the last two years and till date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government against the errant companies which are violating the agreement ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are six private Basic Telephone Service Operators viz, M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd in Madhya Pradesh M/s Reliance Telecom (Pvt) Ltd.in Gujarat, M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. in Punjab, M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh, M/s Hughes Tele.com (India) Ltd. in Maharashtra and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. in Rajasthan.

(c) & (d) The details in respect of targets committed by them for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas vis-a-vis the achievements in terms of number of VPTs actually provided till date in last two years are enclosed an Annexure.

(e) These private operators have continuously been insisted upon to submit and adhere to a definite time-bound quarter-wise roll out plan for clearing the backlog of missed targets of VPTs to discharge their committed obligations. It has also been made clear to them that there will not be any dilution in their committed performance obligations voluntarily undertaken by them in the licence agreement. Further, as decided by Group on Telecom and Information Technology (GOT IT) Convergence, the private Basic Telephone Service Operators have also been asked to submit an undertaking as well as an additional performance bank guarantee for fulfilling balance of the roll out obligations within a defined time-frame, not exceeding the end of year 2002, by which time NTP 99 has envisaged that telephone on demand would be available.

ANNEXURE

PROVISION OF VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES (VPTs) BY PRIVATE LICENSEES

Sl.No	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of Licence. + for VPTs in firstThree years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)	Committed targets	TotalNo. ofcommitted VPTs in 1st 3 years provided(30.6.01)	No. ofVPTs actually
1	M/s Tata Teleservices(Andhra Pradesh)	30.9.1997	9635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)	9635 5
2	M/s Reliance Telecom(Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)	8635 Nil
3	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442 (by 30.9.1998)	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)	5442 Nil
4	M/s Hughes Tele.com (India) Limited.(Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.99) No village was to be leftUncovered by 30.9.99	25760 Nil
5	M/s Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pradesh)	30.9.1997	5500 (by 30.9.1998)	5500 (by 30.9.99) 5500 (by 30.9.2000)	16500 348
6	M/s Shyam Telelink(Rajasthan)	04.3.1998	7439 (by 04.3.1999)	10629 (by 4.3.2000) 13766 (by 4.3.2001)	31834[36727]++ 209
	Total				

+ Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELS) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

++ The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727 As reported by the licensees.