

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:502

ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000

VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES BY PRIVATE BASIC TELECOM OPERATORS

CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the private basic telecom operators have committed to provide village public telephones in a time bound manner;
- (b) if so, whether they have fulfilled their commitments;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action being taken to force the private telecom operators to fulfill their commitments ? *****

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Three out of six licensees, have only been able to start telephone services, that too in urban areas. They have expressed need for a longer time frame to meet their committed obligations to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas.

(d) The licensees of Basic Telephone Service have been apprised many times by the Department and the TRAI for fulfilling their contractual obligations in providing VPTs. They have also been persuaded and insisted upon to submit and adhere to a definite time-bound quarter-wise roll out plan for clearing the backlog of missed targets expeditiously. It has also been intimated to them that neither their performance commitments shall be diluted nor they shall be absolved of such committed obligations under licence agreement signed by them.