

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
MERGER OF DEPARTMENTS
N.T. SHANMUGAM;NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned 'DoT, DOI and DOP under one Ministry' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated September 28, 2001;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether there would be the budgetary savings by merging three Departments of two Ministries under one Umbrella;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Yes Sir. However, the caption of the article appearing in the Hindustan Times (New Delhi, Metro edition) dated 28Th September 2001 is 'Infotech, communications ministries merger on anvil'. This Department has submitted a proposal for the amalgamation of the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Information Technology, into the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. As per the proposal, this new Ministry would consist of three Departments i.e. the Department of Telecommunications and the Department of Posts (presently under the Ministry of Communications), and the Department of Information Technology. No substantial budgetary savings are envisaged as per the proposal which has been formulated essentially in view of the growing inter-dependence between the different sectors and the need of better coordination and convergence.