

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:83

ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002

WITHDRAWAL OF STD ISD SERVICES IN KASHMIR VALLEY

CHADA SURESH REDDY;SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether STD and ISD services were withdrawn from all private public call offices and cyber cafes in Kashmir valley following reports of misuse of these facilities by militants;
- (b) if so, the date from which these facilities have been withdrawn;
- (c) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have opposed the withdrawal of STD/ISD facilities;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to provide alternative employment/job opportunities to the people losing their livelihood as a consequence thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PF MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b): The STD and ISD services were withdrawn on security considerations from all private public call offices and cyber cafes in 8 districts of Jammu & Kashmir State, namely, Kupwara, Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua and Doda with effect from 28.12.2001 and 4 more districts, namely, Badgam, Srinagar, Udhampur and Jammu with effect from 1.1.2002 .

(c) & (d): Some representations have been received by the Government requesting for restoration of the STD/ ISD facilities on the PCOs in J&K State . Government is keeping a watch on the situation.

(e): Even though the STD/ISD facility has been withdrawn, the local and 95 dialing facility is available to all such franchised PCO operators and they can dial most of the places in the State . The minimum guarantee for these PCOs has accordingly been reduced to be in line with Local PCOs.