

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:872
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
PRIVATE COMPANIES IN TELECOM SECTOR
SHIVAJIVITHALRAO KAMBLE

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

- (a) the names of the private companies permitted to operate in Telecom Sector as on date;
- (b) whether these private companies are also likely to provide telecom services in rural areas and improving telecom facilities there;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) the criteria fixed/guidelines issued to the private companies by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL) for providing telecom facilities in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) Names of the private companies licensed to operate Basic Telephone Service as on date are : M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd., M/s Reliance Telecom (Pvt) Ltd., M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd., M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd., M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. and M/s Reliance Communications Ltd.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The details of their voluntarily made commitments vis-à-vis achievements for provision of Village Public Telephones in their licensed service areas are enclosed as Annexure. As regards M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. having signed Licence Agreements under Guidelines dated 25.1.2001 issued pursuant to NTP 99, the roll out obligations are in terms of establishment of Points of Presence (POPs) in all the Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), typically Tehsils.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), itself being an operator, is not authorised to issue any guidelines to private companies for providing telecom facilities in rural areas.

PROVISION OF VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES (VPTs) BY PRIVATE LICENSEES

Sl No.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of Licence.	I Year	II Year	III Year	Committed targets+ for VPTs in first Three years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)	Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs actually provided (31.1.02)
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	35	
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	1	
4	M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Limited. (Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000	(by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.99)	No village was to be left Uncovered by 30.9.99	25760	134
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 4.3.1999)	10629 (by 4.3.2000)	13766 (by 4.3.2001)	31834 (36727)++	209
Total			40651	37889	19266	97806	727	

+ 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.