

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2681
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
FUNDS FROM WORLD BANK
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the World Bank agreed to grant 62 million dollars (Rs. 260 crores) loan for modernizing and expanding regulatory capacity of the Department of Communications;
- (b) if so, the main features thereof;
- (c) the details of the schemes proposed to be implemented with this loan; and
- (d) the time by which the work on these schemes is likely to start?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The funds will be used to strengthen elements of the policy and regulatory environment to promote private investment and competition in the telecommunication sector in India. This will be achieved by assisting the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to strengthen its Government functions, including modernisation of radio frequency management and licences systems and technical standards setting; to strengthen the capacity of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to regulate the sector.

(c) The scheme to be implemented with this loan is `Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project`. The details are as follows:

- (i) Support-project for the Department of Telecommunications, Government functions and institutional organization and capacity building.
- (ii) Strengthening and modernisation of radio frequency spectrum management and radio regulatory and licensing process.
- (iii) Strengthening technical standards` setting with regard to emerging telecom technologies.
- (iv) Strengthening institutional capabilities and regulatory capacity of TRAI and TDSAT.

(d) The project has started on 28.09.2000.