

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3900
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
RURAL TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Limited, Maharashtra has failed to achieve rural telephone connections targeted for Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the target fixed by the Government for rural telephone connections in Maharashtra;
- (c) the target achieved by the M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Limited;
- (d) whether the Government are planning to review their plans and performance;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken against the defaulty company?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) All villages in Maharashtra are to be covered by the end of year 2002.
- (c) 160 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided in Maharashtra by M/s Hughes Telecom(India) Limited.
- (d)&(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has in fact, been regularly monitoring and reviewing their plans and performance in respect of provision of VPTs.
- (f) Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for delay in performance by the defaulting company and made it clear that its committed performance obligations cannot be diluted in any case. Government has asked the company to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December 2002 against submission of Additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees. Further, Government has already taken appropriate steps to resolve problems raised by the company as well as has been reviewing their progress from time to time.