

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4845
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have already own 20,000 route kms. of microwave, 12,000 route kms of copper cables and 3000 kms. of Optical Fibre Cable;
- (b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (c) the purpose for which this extensive telecommunication network installed by the Railways; and
- (d) the revenue generated during 1999-2000 and expected during 2000-2001?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Railway own 19,437 route kms of microwave, 12,897 route kms of copper cable and 2,921 route kms of optical fibre cable as on 31.7.2000.

(b) The assets given in reply to part (a) have been created over a long period of time with costing applicable at the time of commissioning of the system.

(c)&(d) Railways use their telecom network to cater for Railway's own need of communication such as Railways' Train Control, operational, Safety, accident/disaster management system and administrative Trunk Communication. Since Railways' communication infrastructure is created only to meet internal demand, no attempt was made earlier for earning revenues from these assets. However, after advent of OFC network/Digital Microwave system, it is being increasingly realised that surplus capacity may be leased/rented for earning some revenues. A beginning has been made in this

direction and Railways could lease out some communication channels which gave a revenue earning of Rs. 6.08 lakhs in 1999-2000 & Rs.10.76 lakhs in 2000-2001 so far.