

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:575  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2003  
SHORTAGE OF OFCS  
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is shortage of Optical Fibre Cables in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of Telephone exchanges in each State that has not been provided OFC/Microwave facilities so far;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide OFC/Microwave facilities at least to those Exchanges having 1000 lines; and
- (e) by when all the telephone exchanges specially in the rural areas are likely to be provided OFC/Microwave facilities?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPONSE TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 575 FOR 30TH APRIL, 2003 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF OFCs.

(a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of optical fibre cable in the country.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The number of telephone exchanges in each State that have not been provided Optical Fibre Cable/ Microwave facilities is given in the Annexure. Only 2% of the exchanges are not on OFC/Microwave media.

(d) Except 36 exchanges in Punjab and one each in Tamil Nadu and Mizoram, all exchanges having 1000 lines and above have been provided with Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave facility. These 38 exchanges are likely to be provided with Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave connectivity during 2003-2004.

(e) According to existing guidelines, all exchanges including rural exchanges are to be connected by reliable medium such as Optical Fibre Cable, Microwave, Satellite, Cable PC Mor Underground cables. As such there is no plan to connect all exchanges by only Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave. Out of 36,073 exchanges in BSNL network, 35,912 exchanges have already been connected by reliable medium and the balance 161 exchanges will be connected by reliable medium by 30.6.2003.

**ANNEXURE**

**NUMBER OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGES NOT PROVIDED WITH OFC/MICROWAVE FACILITIES**

Sl. No.	State with OFC/Microwave facilities	No. of Exchanges not provided	Telephone
1	Andhra Pradesh		2
2	Assam		8
3	Bihar		47
4	Jharkhand		0
5	Gujarat		21
6	Haryana		40
7	Himachal Pradesh		26
8	Jammu & Kashmir		40
9	Karnataka		9
10	Kerala		0

11	Madhya Pradesh	8
12	Chhattisgarh	0
13	Maharashtra	161
14	Goa	0

North East-I

15	Meghalaya	12
16	Tripura	18
17	Mizoram	22

North East-II

18	Arunachal Pradesh	13
19	Manipur	0
20	Nagaland	4
21	Orissa	1
22	Punjab	105
23	Rajasthan	125
24	Tamil Nadu including Chennai	14
25	Uttar Pradesh	0
26	Uttaranchal	71
27	West Bengal including Kolkata	29
28	Sikkim	1

Total 777