

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4998
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
MODERNISATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN RAILWAYS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken steps for the modernisation of telecommunication system in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;
- (c) the fund earmarked therefor during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan period;
- (d) whether private sector participation has also been invited;and
- (e) if so, the extent thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a):i) The modernisation of telecom system is a continuous process. Ministry of Railways is introducing following systems progressively towards updating / modernising the telecom system -

- Optical Fibre Cable.
- Digital Electronic Exchanges.
- Digital Microwave.
- Satellite Telephones.

ii) Besides, Ministry of Railways has formed a Corporation namely RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) under its administrative control with one of the objectives as expediting modernisation of Railways' communication system for train control, operations and safety. RailTel is in the process of laying optical fibre cable system along the Railway track utilising Railways' right of way for creating a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network. RailTel plans to connect 150 important cities and 1500 stations on optical fibre network during 2003-04. Besides, RailTel also plans to provide as pilot projects Internet Kiosks at New Delhi Railway station and Internet services on one of the selected trains during the current financial year.

(b): A statement is attached.

(c): The funds for Signalling and Telecom are earmarked jointly. During Ninth Five Year Plan, Rs. 1665.80 crore were spent on planned Signalling and Telecom activities. For Tenth Five Year Plan, Rs. 3190 crore including Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been earmarked for Signalling and Telecom.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4998 BY SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.4.2003 REGARDING MODERNISATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN RAILWAYS.

As on 31.03.2003

Railway	Optical	Digital	Digital	Satellite
Fibre Cable	Electronic	Microwave	Phones	
System	Exchanges	Links		

(RKm)

(Lines)

(RKm)

(Nos.)

Central	1739	41888	721	9
Eastern	1130	17657	967	8
Northern	1016	39779	1475	9
North Eastern	23	11370	624	6
Northeast Frontier	561	6750	0	5
Southern	1265	23043	1191	8
South Central	0	17110	577	2
South Eastern	3352	15192	397	9
Western	849	48271	1389	9
Total	9935	221060	7341	65

Note: The position includes telecom system of new carved out zones, which were earlier part of above 9 zones.