

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7435
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
SURRENDER OF FUNDS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether Public Accounts Committee expressed serious concern over the Department of Telecommunication (DOT) casual approach erroneous surrender of funds, laxity in protecting public money;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the Department has reacted to the Public Accounts Committee's revelation; and
- (c) the corrective measures have been taken about the erroneous surrender of funds and to eliminate such recurrence in future?.

Answer

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

(a) In their second report on 'Union Government Appropriation Accounts-Telecommunications Services (1996-1997)', the Public Accounts Committee (12th Lok Sabha) have pointed out persistent savings in the Capital section, variations under various heads, obtaining additional allocations without due regard to trend of expenditure, erroneous surrender of funds and injudicious appropriation of funds.

(b) & (c): The Committee desired that appropriate steps be taken to tone up the accounting information system so as to avoid erroneous surrender of funds. The observations of the Committee were noted and suitable instructions issued to all the field units. With the corporatisation of the operations of the Department of Telecom Services/Department of Telecom Operations and the formation of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, with effect from 1.10.2000, the budgeting and accounting systems have been completely revamped. The Department of Telecommunications now looks after the functions of policy formulation, licensing, Wireless spectrum Management and administrative control of the Public Sector Undertaking. The expenditure of the Department of Telecommunications is now met from the General Exchequer and the receipts of the Department also accrue to the General Revenues.