

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2627
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

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

- (a) whether the Government have convene a meeting of leading operators to devise long term and sustainable formula for connecting multiple Indian telecom networks with each other;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) the details of steps taken after the meeting to sort out the issues between private operators and BSNL outside Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by BSNL and private operators to linking up all unconnected Indian villages?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. Interconnection of telecom network is a matter of mutual agreement between the concerned network operators. Further, the service providers are free to work out mutual arrangement for utilizing infrastructure of each other to link up all unconnected Indian villages.