

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1299
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
PRIVATE FIXED LINE OPERATORS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fixed line service providers have sought ten days time to table a definite plan for providing village public telephones (VPT) to the Department of Telecommunications (DOT);
- (b) if so, whether the fixed line service were to provide the DoT with a time bound plan for reaching VPTs to the rural areas by April 30, 2000.
- (c) if so, whether as per the terms of license agreement, private operators were to provide minimum 10% direct exchange lines as VPTs;
- (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which they are likely to provide VPT throughout the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)to(d) They were to provide committed Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the time bound roll out plan undertaken by them in the bid documents and stipulated thereof in their licence agreements.

(e) They have not given any definite indication of such time-frame.