

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:213  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000  
TELECOM FACILITIES  
VISHNU DATT

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to supply essential equipments for installation of rural telephone exchanges and provide all villages and Panchayats with STD/ISD/PCOs network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 213 FOR 7TH AUGUST, REGARDING TELECOM FACILITIES

The Government has planned to set up small and medium capacity exchanges to provide telephone connections in rural areas. These exchanges are State of Art Digital Electronic Exchanges based on C-DOT design. Transmission media of adequate capacity is also planned to provide reliable connectivity to the exchanges working in rural areas.

The Department has taken all necessary action for supply of exchange equipments and other essential equipments such as power plant, battery, MDF and underground cable for successful installation in rural areas. These exchanges will provide telephone connections, VPTs and STD/ISD/PCOs to the villages and Panchayats.

The Government plans to install 3431 Exchanges in rural areas in the current year with the switching capacities of 25.82 lakhs lines to provide 14.2 lakh DELs (Direct Exchange Lines). Target of the DELs for the year 2001-2002 has been fixed as 19.0 lakhs lines in rural areas. The Government is committed to provide telephone on demand throughout the country including rural areas and provide Village Public Telephones in all the 6.07 lakhs villages by March, 2002.