

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET SECTORS
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes formulated by the Union Government for the expansion of communication and internet sectors;
- (b) whether the Government have invited foreign investors for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the percentage of foreign capital likely to be invested in this sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS: (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

b) & c) As per the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy of the government, FDI/Non-Resident Indian(NRI)/ Overseas Corporate Bodies(OCBs) investment upto 49% is allowed in Telecom Service Sector and upto 100% in Telecom Manufacturing Sector.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 189 FOR 24.7.2000 REGARD EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET SECTORS.

ANNEXURE

Schemes formulated for 2000-2001.

Communications (DTS&MTNL)

Sr.Nos. Name of Scheme

A Local Telephone Systems

i)	Switching Capacity	:	72.35 Lakh Lines
ii)	Direct Exchange Lines	:	57.90 Lakh Lines
iii)	IMPCS (Mobile Service)	:	0.10 Lakh Lines

B Long Distance Switching Systems

i)	TAX Capacity	:	5.15 Lakh Lines
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C Long Distance Transmission Systems

i)	Microwave Systems	:	10,000 RKMS
ii)	Optical Fibre Cables	:	100,000 RKMS

D	Village Public Telephones	:	100,000 Nos.
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INTERNET

National Internet Backbone (NIB)-DTS plans to establish a National Internet Backbone for carriage of Internet traffic. It aims at providing easy interconnect point to the ISPs besides establishing Points of Presence for DTS as an Internet Service Provider. It is proposed to set up at least one Internet node in every Secondary Switching Area. Number of nodes planned for SSA/DHQ is 425, out of which 178 nodes have been commissioned till June`2000. 14 Type A nodes and 36 Type B nodes has been planned for NIB project.

Internet Services Provider(ISP) policy for `Private Operator`, was announced by the Government in November`98. This is a liberal policy which has promoted vast proliferation of internet within the country. As on date 368 licences have been given, out of which 80 ISPs have started operations.

ISPs have been permitted to set up international gateways after obtaining security clearance. As on date 27 ISPs have been given in Principal approval for setting up of 102 international gateways using satellite medium.