Sikkim

1. North Sikkim

2. South Sikkim

3. West Sikkim

Tamil Nadu

1. Madras

2. Madurai

3. Nilgiris

4. North Arcot

5. Thirunelveli Kottaboman

6. Dindigul

7. Tanjore

8. Trichy

9. Vallalar

10. Salem

11. Villapuram Ramasamy Padyatchiar

Tripura

1. South Tripura - HQ. Udaipur

Uttar Pradesh

1. Agra

2. Allahabad

3. Kanpur

4. Sultanpur

5. Sonebhadra - HQ. Robertsganj

6. Dehradun

7. Chamoli

8. Nainital

9. Ghaziabad

10. Deoria

11. Moradabad

12. Saharanpur

13. Meerut

14. Muzaffarnagar

Union Territories

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1. Andamans

Chandigarh

1. Chandigarh

Dadra and Nagar Havell

1. Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Delhi

1. Delhi

Lakshadweep

1. Lakshadweep

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry

Improvement in Telephone Facilities

768. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate communication facilities in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken provide adequate facilities at such places;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued with regard to making improvement in the functioning of public telephones in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the reasons for non-compliance of guidelines; and

(f) the remedial measures taken/being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHIR BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is aware about the inadequacy of communication facilities in rural areas. All out efforts are being made to install at least one Village Public Telephone (VPT) in each village by the end of the 9th plan period. It is proposed to provide 7.5 lakhs Direct Exchange Lines including 83,000 VPTs during 1997-98.

(d) to (f) Guidelines have been issued to the field units for testing of Public Telephones installed in rural areas on daily basis. Performance monitoring is being done at the top management level in the Telecom Circles. The results are being analysed regularly in the DOT (Deptt. of Telecom) HQrs. All the Circles are complying with the guidelines issued in this regard.