

- (v) To sort out the problem of transportation of mails in rural areas, periodic meetings are held with the various transport authorities at various levels.
- (vi) Checking of Money Order Payment by the Inspectors/Assistant Superintendents and Mails Overseers and Overseer Postmen.

Revenue Sharing Agreement

2102. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and the Deptt. of Telecommunications have entered into a new revenue sharing agreement; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features are as under:

1. The new revenue sharing arrangement will be effecting from 1.4.97 and will be applicable upto 31.3.2002.
2. In the 1st and 2nd financial years of the agreement, the VSNL will receive a net retention of Rs. 10/- per minute for each of outgoing and incoming calls.
3. From 3rd year onwards the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic will be compared to the absolute net earnings per paid minute of international traffic in the base financial year i.e. 1997-98. Any difference in the amount will be shared between DOT and VSNL in the following ratio:

For the year 1999-2000, the ratio of sharing will be 15:85 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

For the year 2000-2001 the ratio of sharing will be 20:80 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

For the year 2001-2002 the ratio of sharing will be 25:75 between VSNL and DOT respectively.

4. VSNL will pay a licence fee of Rs. 2.5 lakhs p.a. per average number of commissioned circuits.
5. Surcharge on Super Group was made to Zero.
6. This Agreement will be subject to review if in any financial year or years, the Rs./\$ exchange rate fluctuate by more than 10% in either direction, with the objective of correcting the imbalance so caused.
7. The Agreement will also be reviewed if VSNL earns less than Rs. 9/- per minute or more than Rs. 11/- per minute in any financial year or

years of Agreement, in order to correct the imbalance.

Gauge Conversion

2103. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Saurashtra and Kutch for conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal is being considered by the Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to convert Wankaner Morbi-Navlakhi metre gauge section into broad gauge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva and its extension upto Pipavav has been included in Supplementary Budget 1996-97. The work will be taken up after obtaining the required clearances.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Gauge conversion of Wankaner-Mailya Miyana and Dahinsara-Navlakhi is already included in the Budget. Work will be taken up shortly.

Applications for Telephone Connections

2104. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for telephone connections as on 1.4.1996 and 31.12.1996, circle-wise;

(b) the number of lines added, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise;

(c) the number of connections given, during April-December, 1996, circle-wise; and

(d) the average waiting time, for the general category, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The details are given in the statement attached.

(d) The information is being collected from the Field units and the same will be placed on the Table of the Hon'ble House.

Statement

Circle wise details of pending applications for telephone connections, number of lines added and number of connections given during 1996-97

Sl.	Circle	Pending applications as on		Number of lines added April-December 1996	Number of connections given April-December 1996
		1.4.96	31.12.96		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	135054	226318	104265	92033
2.	Assam	19648	28707	13172	9481
3.	Bihar	42481	60065	7770	20362
4.	Gujarat	211799	290801	54302	80104
5.	Haryana	76914	101695	18882	22503
6.	Himachal Pradesh	24768	44716	24329	18930
7.	J & K	27919	31214	8431	6847
6.	Karnataka	153663	230349	94605	70388
9.	Kerala	415321	620177	98434	87924
10.	M.P.	35806	67970	19429	24782
11.	Maharashtra	226144	313685	137237	95198
12.	North East	5961	16772	5868	7500
13.	Orissa	14682	22579	13322	22548
14.	Punjab	173005	230604	73602	51729
15.	Rajasthan	138150	190678	72706	46460
16.	Tamil Nadu	258642	350104	103242	73297
17.	U.P. (East)	52733	63463	39561	37737
18.	U.P. (West)	65813	100269	30117	50164
19.	West Bengal	46998	72838	41429	30138
20.	A&N Islands	1179	2849	100	263
21.	Mumbai	10572	61584	13050	67254
22.	Delhi	9221	56820	35584	85351
23.	Calcutta	47588	90587	58700	26184
24.	Chennai	83187	103327	55160	27738
Total		2277248	3398171	1123307	1054915

Curzon Bridge over River Ganga at Allahabad

2105. SHRI RAMSAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities are planning to make the Curzon Bridge re-usable at Allahabad over the river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the bridge is likely to be made usable;

(c) whether there is also any proposal for the construction of another bridge over river Yamuna at Allahabad for the development activities in the Yamunapar

area where a large number of industries are being affected for want of proper communication system; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work of second bridge over river Yamuna is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.