

**COMMITTEE  
ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES  
(1993-94)**

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

**TWENTY-FIRST REPORT**

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES  
OF  
TENTH LOK SABHA**



(Presented on )

3658R  
3.2.94

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*June 6, 1994 / Jyaistha 16, 1916 (Saka)*

*Price: Rs. 10/-*

LOK SABHA  
CORRIGENDA

to the Twenty First Report of the  
Committee on Government Assurances  
(1993-94)

(Tenth Lok Sabha)

Page No.	Para No.	Line	Correction
1	1	1	<u>For cul let read cul ed</u>
9	2	6	<u>For Sitting read sitting</u>
			<u>Insert COMMUNICATIONS</u> <u>after Sl.No. 6</u>
11	33	3	<u>For furnish read furnished</u>
12	34	10	<u>For manipulate read manipulate</u>
15	-	5	<u>For assurances read Assurances</u>
	2	1	<u>For Ninteenth read Nineteenth</u>
	3	3	<u>For exceed read accede</u>
16		1	<u>For Their after read Thereafter</u>
	6	7	<u>For below</u>
			<u>Read on PP 13-14 of the Report.</u>
21		9	<u>For Deciswion read decision</u>
		13	<u>For antenna read antennas</u>
27	Col. 3	10	<u>For of read at</u>
		19	<u>Insert returned</u> <u>after U.P.</u>
28	Col. 6	13	<u>For Decide read decided</u>
29	Col. 2	6	<u>Insert they before had</u>
32	Col. 2	11	<u>For or read on</u>
	Col. 3	3	<u>For complied read collected</u>
38	Col. 1	11	<u>For Gandadhra read Gangadhara</u>

## CONTENTS

### PAGE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.....	(iii)
INTRODUCTION.....	(v)
REPORT .....	1
Review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Commerce, Communications (Department of Tele-communications and Posts) of First Session of 10th Lok Sabha.	

### APPENDICES

(i) Minutes of Third Sitting held on February 10, 1994.....	15
(ii) Minutes of Fourth Sitting held on February 23, 1994.....	17
(iii) Minutes of Eighth Sitting held on June 6, 1994 .....	24

### ANNEXURES

I. Statement of Pending Assurances of First Session of Tenth Lok Sabha pertaining to the Ministries of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Civil Aviation & Tourism, Commerce and Communications .....	26
II. Statement showing Ministry-wise Assurances reviewed.....	43
III. National Telecom Policy, 1994 .....	44

**\*COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (1993-94)**

**CHAIRMAN**

Shri Basudeb Acharia

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat
3. Shri Gurcharan Singh Dadhahoor
4. Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda
5. Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal
- @6. Major D.D. Khanoria
7. Shri Harpal Panwar
8. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
9. Shrimati Suryakanta Patil
10. Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad
11. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
12. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
13. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
14. Shri Shibu Soren
15. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri Murari Lal	— <i>Joint Secretary</i>
Shri Joginder Singh	— <i>Deputy Secretary</i>
Shri Ram Autar Ram	— <i>Under Secretary</i>

---

\*The Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 20 December, 1993 *vide* para 2609 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 20.12.93.

@Nominated to the Committee on 23 December, 1993 *vide* para 2628 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 23.12.93.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf, present this 21st Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (1993-94) were constituted on December 20, 1993.

3. The Committee at their third sitting held on February 10, 1994 reviewed the pending assurances of the First Session of 10th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Commerce, Communications (Department of Tele-Communications and Posts). The Committee at their sitting held on February 23, 1994 took the oral evidence of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-communications) on the 11 pending assurances.

4. At their sitting held on June 6, 1994 the Committee considered and adopted the 21st Report.

5. The Minutes of the aforesaid sitting of the Committee form part of the Report.

6. The conclusions/observations of the Committee are contained in the succeeding paragraphs of the Report.

NEW DELHI;  
June, 6, 1994

---

*Jyaishta 16, 1916 (Saka)*

BASUDEB ACHARIA,  
*Chairman,*

*Committee on Government Assurances.*

## REPORT

### REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF TENTH LOK SABHA

During the First Session of Tenth Lok Sabha 906 assurances were cul let out from the Lok Sabha debates. Out of these 801 assurances have since been implemented. This figure includes implemented assurances laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs upto December 23, 1994. The remaining 105 assurances were left to be implemented by the Ministries/Departments concerned.

2. At their sitting held on February 10, 1994 the Committee reviewed first batch of 18 pending assurances pertaining to the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Civil Aviation & Tourism, Commerce and Communications (Department of Tele-communications and Posts). The text of the questions and the assurances given thereto are annexed to the Minutes of the Sitting at Serial Nos. 1 to 18 Annexure I.

3. The Committee also decided to take oral evidence of the officials of the Department of Tele-communications as a large number of assurances were still pending with that Ministry for implementation.

4. The Ministry/Department-wise assurances reviewed by the Committee are given in Annexure II.

5. At their sitting held on February 23, 1994, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-communications) in connection with non-implementation of the following assurances given on:—

- (i) July 18, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 85 regarding Athreya Committee Report on Tele-communications restructuring.
- (ii) July 25, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 550 regarding out of turn telephone connections.
- (iii) July 25, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 146 regarding electronic telephone exchanges in Ahmedabad.
- (iv) August 1, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 1304 regarding telephone connections on out of turn basis.
- (v) August 8, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 365 regarding Constitution of Telecommunication Advisory Committee.
- (vi) August 8, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 2251 regarding new telephone connections.
- (vii) August 22, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 4046 regarding Dish Antennas.

- (viii) August 29, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 622 regarding Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam.
- (ix) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6818 regarding new Telephone connections.
- (x) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6911 regarding new Telecommunication Policy.
- (xi) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6934 regarding involvement of private sector in Telecommunication Services.

6. At the outset, the Chairman drew the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker and explained to them that their evidence was likely to be treated as public and liable to be published unless the witnesses specifically desired that all or any part of the evidence given by them was to be treated as confidential. It was also explained to the witness that even though the evidence was desired to be confidential, such evidence was liable to be made available to the Members of Parliament.

7. The Committee enquired the reasons for the delay in implementing the assurances within three months and for not seeking extension of time in some cases. The representatives of the Department of the Telecommunications replied that their Department always tried to give reply as far as possible on the floor of the House and whenever any assurance was given immediately thereon, they tried to give details as quickly as possible in fulfilment of the assurances. The witness further explained the following reasons for delay in implementation of these assurances:—

"...we have a vast network throughout the country and the question which calls for statistical information sometimes means getting the latest information from the field officers and that results in some unavoidable delays. Further, the assurances relate to policy issues, where the decision making involves a process of deliberation and by its very nature sometimes there are unavoidable delays which we greatly regret. Where policies are concerned, there are some delays and where statistical information has to be collected from a large number of field officers there are delays".

8. The Committee further enquired the prevailing procedure for seeking extension of time to implement the pending assurances. In reply the witness explained as follows:—

"As far as our system of working is concerned, before we approach the Parliament Secretariat for extension we get the approval of the Minister and before we put up the proposal for the Minister for extension of time we see how we can fulfil the assurance. Our first effort is that and with great reluctance we come for extension of time. When it becomes unavoidable we seek the orders of the Minister of State and we come and seek extension. That is the

practice we follow. We come for extension of time only in unavoidable cases”.

9. The Committee enquired the number of assurances out of the 11 pending assurances that had been implemented or going to be implemented during the Budget Session of 1994. The representative informed the Committee out of these 11 pending assurances that had been taken up for discussion five assurances were being laid/fulfilled and the remaining six assurances relating to policy decision like Dish Antenna, National Tele-communication Policy, Atreya Committee Report etc. are in the process of implementation. The witnesses further submitted that advance implementation report had already been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for laying the Statements on the Table of the House. When the Committee enquired about date on which the advance implementation report had been furnished/sent to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in respect of these five cases, the witnesses admitted that it had been done recently.

10. The Committee observed that they were very liberal in granting extension of time, whenever, extension was sought, the Committee enquired as to why extension of time had not been sought well in advance.

11. The witnesses submitted as follows:—

“Firstly I would like to submit that we have the greatest respect for this Committee. We will be the last person, as the Chairman has said, to treat this Committee in a lackadaisical manner. We have a system for pursuing the assurances. We have a dedicated Parliament Section. We have got one Additional Secretary to look after this. As I have already said, the proposals for seeking extension of time come through me. We have Member (Services) and Member (Production). We have also four other Officers for this purpose.

I would like to assure you that the assurances are being treated in a very serious manner. Out of 11 assurances, five assurances had been fulfilled. In one case, it is not a regular assurance and it is only some clarification was needed in the case of Ahmedabad. Among the remaining five cases, three cases are of delay and in regard to the other two cases, information has to be collected. I would like to tell this Committee that our Department receives a large number of questions on every question day. If you look at the number of assurances given and the number of questions answered, you may appreciate that we may not be doing so badly but, we will take all your observations seriously. We will further try to improve.”

12. The Committee further enquired whether any action had been taken against the defaulting officers for not seeking extension of time and for keeping assurances pending for two years. In reply the witness submitted as follows:—

“if you analyse the reasons for the delay, the delay took place in



those cases where some policy issues are involved. Take for example, New Telecommunication Policy, Dish antennas etc. These are the cases where there should be some delay."

13. The Committee further interrogated that how far it is justified to keep the Member waiting for a reply about the condition of one telephone exchange. Witnesses replied as under:—

"The reply was sent to the Member as well as to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on July 12, 1993.

I submit that what happened in this case was that it did not take so long as two years to get information. The officials initially did not consider it as an assurance. Later on it was brought to our notice and as soon as we came to know about it, we collected and gave the information.

In the reply on the floor of the House, the Minister said that the telephone exchanges in Ahmedabad are to be replaced by electronic exchange in Eighth Plan. We thought that this was a satisfactory reply. Only when the letter came that it was an assurance and details to be given, we got the information and gave it to the Members. It was on after 1991 the policy of manufacturing equipment was liberalised. We now have resource crunch. In the Eighth Plan we propose to convert Line finder stronger and MAX-III exchanges into electronic exchanges as per the Eighth Five Year Plan of the Department"

14. In reply to a query whether all the telephone exchanges that had outlived their life of 25 years were going to be converted into electronic exchanges during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the witnesses replied that there are 17368 exchanges in India and out of which 65% of them were electronic exchanges and 35% were non-electronic exchanges. Out of these 35% non-electronic exchanges, 80% were the rural exchanges. It was stated that by 1977 all the non-electronic exchanges would be converted into electronic exchanges. The further details were indicated as under:—

"There is a life prescribed for various exchanges and after this life is over, they are being replaced. Actually they are being replaced well in schedule. Every year, when we have a plan, we have certain number of lines being replaced. By 1997, we expect 90% direct exchange lines converted into electronic exchange lines."

15. The Committee enquired about fixation of the priority and the criteria followed for converting non-electric exchanges into electronic exchanges. The witness gave the following details:—

"We are not so rich to replace any exchange before the life time. But wherever demand is exceeding the present capacity in rural exchanges we are replacing the MAX-3 exchange by electronics exchange. 80% of the total exchanges are village exchange.

In order to give better service to high calling rate/STD subscribers, we are transferring them to electronic exchanges. Suppose some electronic exchanges are installed in the city where electro-mechanical exchanges exist calling rate STD subscribers are transferred to electronic exchanges. Thus we are able to utilise the electronised equipment for full life period.

We will not be able to replace all the non-electronic exchanges even by 1997 because they would not have completed their life. But because of change in technology, we will be able to give better service to electro-mechanised exchange subscribers. The entire congestion in these exchanges will disappear and the maximum staff will be available for maintenance of these non-electronic exchanges as electronic exchanges do not require much maintenance and they require very small number of staff."

16. As desired by the Committee, the Ministry of Communications furnished the following details in a written reply on March 25, 1994 regarding conversion of non-electronic exchanges into electronic exchanges:—

- |    |  |   |  |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | What is the percentage both in terms of lines and the number of exchanges which are non-electronic.                                    | Percentage of Lines 36.45   | Non-electronic Exchanges 23.79   |
| 2. | How many of them are rural exchanges and how many are urban exchanges; how many exchanges in the country completed more than 25 years. | No. of non electronic exchanges.<br>Rural 3063  | No. of non-electronic exchanges.<br>Urban Exchanges more than 25 years 890<br>95 |
| 3. | How many DHQs have still exchanges which are more than 25 years old in the country.  | 35 No. of DHQs are still having changes more than 25 years old.   |  |
| 4. | The progress of year-wise conversion into electronic exchanges both in terms of lines and number of exchanges may be indicated.        | As per available information the number of non-electronic lines/exchanges replaced during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as under:— |  |

Year	No. of lines/ exchanges replaced
1991-92	372931 / 2090
1992-93	496515 / 3493
1993-94	311026 / 1276

5. Basis of priority/criteria for conversion to electronic exchanges. As per 8th plan objective, all SAX (MAX-III), MAX-II (LF type) and life expired electro-mechanical exchanges are to be replaced by electronic exchanges by the end of plan.

17. Regarding the assurance given on August 22, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 4046 regarding Dish Antenna, the Committee enquired as to why the assurance had been pending since long. The witness replied as under:—

“This is pending. There is difference of opinion between the Ministry of Home Affairs and our Ministry. The Ministry of Home Affairs very rightly pointed out that in view of the disturbed conditions in certain parts of the country, it is not possible to adopt a more liberal approach for dish antennas. We are thinking that it is better to adopt a more liberal approach in this matter, as it is very difficult for DOT to implement the decision. The Home Ministry is to be consulted and we have to come to some compromise. We will be able to come to a decision within a month. Once you are having a dish antenna we thought it is not possible for us to implement unless Ministry of Home Affairs point out that this man has not taken the licence only then we start action under the Indian Telegraph Act..... It is not possible to practically monitor each of the antenna. If the Home Ministry were to tell us which are the areas to be watched, then we can pay attention to them. We are basically a technical department. We are providing the services. We do not have enough resources to monitor every activity. That is why, this responsibility is of the Home Ministry. We can go by their advice so far as monitoring a particular antenna is concerned. But it is not possible for us to do for the whole country. That is why, the issue is pending. I have given an assurance that I will give a reply within one month.”

18. The Committee further enquired about the assurance given on August 29, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 622 regarding Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam. To it, the witnesses replied as under:—

“Regarding the question of the Calcutta MTNL, it may be pointed out that there was a strike in 1990. They paid Rs. 100 extra to every duty employee as interim relief which was withdrawn. A Committee was formed, called Atreya Committee. That Committee unanimously recommended that there should not be any duality in the telecom net (Corporation and the DOT). We have put it up to the Government

and the decision is awaited....what has happened is, the Atreya Committee have recommended for a uniform system. They have recommended for corporatising the whole DOT. Today there is duality in our structure. Delhi and Bombay are under the MTNL which is a public sector undertaking and in rest of the places, they are under the Department of Telecom. Secondly, they recommend that the whole department should be corporatised. There should be regional corporations in four regions and one holding corporation. This was submitted in March, 1991. In July, 1991, the present Government came to power. This has been under consideration of the Government. The whole question of restructuring of the Department keeping in mind the Atreya Committee Report is before the Government. The Government will have to take a final decision about restructuring, they have not taken a decision yet."

19. The Committee desired to know the progress made regarding finalising of the New Telecommunication policy which has been pending since 1984. The witness explained the position as follows:—

"I am aware of the fact. From 1984, there has been talk about the National Telecommunication Policy. The draft was prepared some time in 1991, but ultimately it could not get the approval even within the Government itself, at the level of various Ministries. And you will be glad to know that now, atleast, a draft paper has been prepared. It is right now before the highest levels in Government and we expect the policy to be approved very soon and then it will be placed before Parliament in the current session. The latest position is that a draft Telecom Policy has been recommended by the Telecom Commission and it was submitted to the Government. The Government is deliberating on it at the highest levels.

...Sir, that 1992 draft did not pass muster because there were serious differences of opinion between the Department of Telecommunications and other Ministries.

After obtaining the concurrence of all the Ministries, a revised draft policy has been formulated. It is now at the highest levels of the Government. After due deliberations, it will be placed before Parliament in the current session."

20. The witness again affirmed that it would be approved and announced during the current Session.

21. Regarding the assurance given on August 8, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 365 regarding constitution of Telecommunication Advisory Committee, the Committee enquired the reasons for not implementing the assurance by that time. In reply, the witnesses stated that the question was related to the constitution of 51 Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) so they had given that information.

22. The Committee further sought elucidation whether all these Com-

**mittees** had been constituted. The representative replied in the positive and further explained as under:—

“Sir, constitution of TACs is a continuous process because after a certain duration, they will be lapsed and a new TAC has to be formed. The date varies from place to place because new TACs are formed after the old TACs lapsed. So, continuously over the years, new TACs are being formed, as the old TACs become defunct..... We have got 321 secondary switching areas in the country and in addition to that there are about 20 circles..... Wherever the secondary switching area is headed by a Director or by an officer of a junior administrative grade or by a General Manager or by a District Manager, in all those places. TACs have to be formed and they are being formed. There will be one TAC at the circle level also.”

23. The Committee further enquired whether there existed a cell in the Ministry to monitor, seek extension of time and process the implementation of the assurances quickly. The representatives of the Department of Telecommunication assured that they would have a centralised monitoring system installed in their Ministry and also clarified the position as follows:—

“We have a Parliament Section in our Ministry and we have different divisions; each division pursues it and the Parliament Section acts at the section level as the coordinator and at the Commission level we will be reviewing from time to time the implementation of the programme. That is how we monitor it..... my information is that we have been normally seeking extension in time. But this is now being done in different sections. So we will have a centralised monitoring system installed. We have got a Parliament Section already, so that on this particular issue of seeking extension of time also we will monitor. so that we will have a tighter control than what we have.”

24. The Committee note that out of 18 pending assurances that were decided to be pursued by the Committee, six assurances (at serial Nos. 5, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 18) have been implemented, and laid on the table of the House by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. The remaining 12 assurances are still left to be implemented by the concerned Departments. The Committee also note that the Ministries/Departments have sought extensions of time to implement these pending assurances.

The latest position of each assurance as on date is indicated as under:—

Sl. No.	Question No. and Date	Latest Position Extension Sought upto
<b>MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS</b>		
1.	SQ No. 589 Dt. 28.8.91	27.5.93 No further extension sought.

Sl. No.	Question No. and Date	Latest Position Extension Sought upto
<b>MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION &amp; TOURISM</b>		
2.	USQ No. 4545 Dt. 27.8.91	28.8.1994
*3.	USQ No. 4546 Dt. 27.8.91	Nil.
4.	USQ No. 6437 Dt. 10.9.91	10.6.94
<b>COMMERCE</b>		
£5.	SQ 714 Dt. 6.9.91	Implemented on 24.2.1994 <i>vide</i> SS No. XVII/Item No. 1
6.	USQ No. 2347 Dt. 9.8.91	Partly implemented on 26.2.92 <i>vide</i> SS No. IV/Item No. 11
7.	SQ 85 Dt. 18.7.91	31.6.94
8.	USQ 550 Dt. 25.7.91	Implemented on 22.4.1994 <i>vide</i> SS No. XIX/Item No. 94
9.	SQ 146 Dt. 25.7.91	Nil
10.	USQ 1304 Dt. 1.8.91	Advance Implementation Report received  The Committee did not accept the implementation Report might be pursued.  Extension sought upto 30.9.94
11.	SQ 365 Dt. 8.8.1991	Implemented on 24.2.1994 <i>vide</i> SS No. XVII/Item No. 2
12.	USQ 2251 Dt. 8.8.91	Implemented on 22.4.94 <i>vide</i> SS No. XIX/2
*13.	USQ 3869 Dt. 22.8.91	30.6.94
14.	USQ 4046 Dt. 22.8.91	31.3.94

\*Pertains to Department of Posts.

Sl. No.	Question No. and Date	Latest Position Extension Sought upto
15.	SQ 622 Dt. 29.8.91	31.6.94
16.	USQ 6818	Implemented on 22.4.94 <i>vide</i> SS No. XIX/3.
17.	USQ 6911 Dt. 12.9.91	15.7.94. National Telcom Policy, 1994 has been laid on the Table of the House on May 13, 1994. Text of the Policy is given in <i>Annexure-III</i> .
18.	USQ 6934 Dt. 12.9.91	Nil. Implemented on 11.5.94 <i>vide</i> SS No. XX/1

25. In regard to assurances at serial Nos. 3,6 and 9 of pre-page the Committee are constrained to note that the concerned Ministry/Department have not sought even a single extension of time to fulfil these assurances.

26. The Committee find that the Ministry/Department concerned have not been serious enough in implementing the pending assurances. The Committee are constrained to observe that the authorities concerned in the Ministry are taking the Parliamentary work in a casual manner. The Committee would like to reaffirm that when a solemn commitment has been made on the floor of the House by a Minister, it becomes obligatory on the part of the concerned Ministry/Department to immediately move in the matter and initiate action to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed time limit of three months. In case they anticipate that there is likelihood of unavoidable delay to implement the assurance. They should approach the Committee for extension of time.

27. The Committee recommend that a reorientation programme may be conducted by each Ministry/Department in order to expedite and fulfil the commitments made by their Ministers on the floor of the House. A report to this effect should be furnished to this August Committee.

28. The Committee take notice that the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-Communications) have informed the Committee that out of 11 pending assurances implementation reports in respect of five assurances have recently been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for compilation and laying on the Table of the House. The Committee deprecate this approach of the Department of Tele-communications for

implementing some of the assurances a day before appearing before the Committee in order to liquidate the pending lot of assurances. The Committee take a serious view of such practice of withholding information and express their displeasure over abnormal delay caused in furnishing information to the House even on small matters which could be given without delay. The Committee thus do not appreciate the system of dealing with the Parliamentary Assurances. The Committee are of the opinion that two and half years' time that has been taken by the Department of Telecommunications to collect simple statistical information can not be justified in any manner.

29. The Committee are happy to take notice that the Government after a marathan deliberations have been able to formulate the new Tele-Communications policy and laid on the Table of the House on the last day of the Budget Session of 1994 i.e. on May 13, 1994.

30. The Committee express their unhappiness over the stand taken by the Ministry of Communications that the reply given on July 25, 1991 to Starred Question No. 146 regarding electronic telephone exchanges in Ahmdabad did not constitute an assurance. The Committee deprecate this stand taken by the Department of Tele-communications and observe that in the reply to the supplementary question raised during the discussion on the subject matter, the Minister incharge had categorically given an assurance stating thereby that he would write to the Hon'ble Member because the life of these exchanges was not available with him at that point of time. The Committee observe that had the Department been serious enough, this information could have been passed on to the Member within a fortnight, and in turn the same could be supplied in the term of Implementation Report to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

31. The Committee hope that the required information in respect of this assurance alongwith other pending assurances will be supplied to the House without any further loss of time. The Committee wish and hope that such practice would not be repeated in future.

32. The Committee further desire to stress that it is only the prerogative of the Committee to decide whether a particular reply constitutes an assurance and it is not for the Ministry / Department to decide the matter. The Committee would like to state that such tendency of trying to evade the solemn promises made by the Minister should be discouraged in future.

33. The Committee while reviewing the pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-Communications) also take notice of the Advance Implementation Report that has been furnish to the Committee on February 8, 1994 in respect of an assurance given on August 1, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 1304 regarding telephone connections on out of turn basis on the forged signatures of the former Minister of Communications. The Minister has given an assurance that the investigation is in progress and the report is awaited. The Committee are shocked to note



the contents of the implementation report that the case has been referred to the CBI for investigation and on receipt of their report, necessary action will be taken against the persons found guilty.

34. The Committee do not accept this Implementation Report and outrightly reject the request of the Ministry that this assurance might be treated as fulfilled. The Committee want that the total number of cases that have been detected by the CBI seeking connections on the forged signatures of the former Minister of Communications be reported to the Committee. The Committee also want to know the procedure that is being followed to complete the investigations and register the cases against the culprits and bring them to book under the law. The Committee take it very seriously that such criminal acts have been left unattended to by the Government of India for years together. It gives a free hand to the culprits to manipulate telephone connections.

35. The Committee wish that the racket should be unearthed and a report to this effect might be furnished to the Committee in the shape of Implementation Report. The Committee hope that the assurance will be implemented within the minimum possible time.

NEW DELHI;  
June 6, 1994

*Jyaishta 16, 1916 (Saka)*

BASUDEB ACHARIA,  
Chairman,  
*Committee on Government Assurances.*

**MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

Sl. No.	Question No. and Date	Extension Sought upto	Decision of the Committee
1.	SQ No. 589 Dt : 28.8.91	27.5.93	Might be pursued.
<b>MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION &amp; TOURISM</b>			
2.	USQ No. 4545 Dt : 27.8.91	Nil	Might be pursued.
3.	USQ No. 4546 Dt : 27.8.91	Nil	Might be pursued.
4.	USQ No. 6437 Dt : 10.9.91	10.6.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
<b>COMMERCE</b>			
5.	SQ 714 Dt : 9.8.91	31.12.93	Might be pursued. Extension of one more month granted i.e. upto 10.3.94.
6.	USQ 2347 Dt : 9.8.91	Partly implemented and further extension not sought.	Might be sought.
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
7.	SQ 85 Dt : 18.7.91	31.3.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
8.	USQ 550 Dt : 25.7.91	30.6.92	Might be Pursued.
9.	SQ 146 Dt : 25.7.91	Nil	Might be Pursued.
10.	USQ No. 1304 Dt : 1.8.91	Advance imple- mentation report received.	The Committee did not accept the implementa- tion report. Might be pursued.
11.	SQ 365 Dt : 8.8.91	31.3.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
12.	USQ 2251 Dt : 8.8.91	Nil	Might be pursued. Ex- pressed displeasure not implementing the assu- rance till now.

Sl. No.	Question No. and Date	Extension Sought upto	Decision of the Committee
13.	USQ 3869 Dt : 22.8.91	31.3.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
14.	USQ 4046 Dt : 22.8.91	31.3.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
15.	SQ 622 Dt : 29.8.91	31.3.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued and to write to the Ministry for immediate im- plementation of the as- surance.
16.	USQ 6818 Dt : 12.9.91	30.6.92	Extension granted. Might be granted.
17.	USQ 6911 Dt : 12.9.91	15.4.94	Extension granted. Might be pursued.
18.	USQ 6934 Dt : 12.9.91	Nil	Might be pursued.

## Appendix-I

(Vide Para 5 of the Introduction)

### MINUTES

#### THIRD SITTING

*Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government assurances held on February 10, 1994 in Room No. '62' Parliament House, New Delhi*

---

The Committee met on Thursday, February 10, 1994 from 11.30 hours to 12.30 hours.

#### PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat
3. Shri Gurcharan Singh Dadhahoor
4. Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal
5. Major D.D. Khanoria
6. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
7. Smt. Suryakanta Patil
8. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
9. Shri Shibu Soren
10. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
11. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

#### SECRETARIAT

Shri Murari Lal — *Joint Secretary*

Shri Joginder Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Under Secretary*

2. The Committee considered and adopted their draft Ninteenth Report. The Committee authorised the Chairman to present the report during the Budget Session of Parliament.

3. to 5. The Committee then took up for consideration Memorandum No. 86 regarding dropping of assurance relating to the Delhi Milk Scheme. The Committee did not exceed to the request and gave three months time to the Ministry of Agriculture for fulfilment of the

**Assurance.** Their after the Committee considered Memorandum No. 87 regarding dropping of the assurance relating to the Government maps and decided to drop it.

6. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration Memorandum No. 88 containing 18 pending assurances pertaining to the First Session of Tenth Lok Sabha (Annexure-I) relating to the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Civil Aviation & Tourism, Commerce and Communications of the First Session of Tenth Lok Sabha for their review. The decision of the Committee are given against each of them as per details given below:—

7. The Committee expressed their displeasure over abnormal delay caused in furnishing information to the House even on small matters which could be done without any delay. The Committee, therefore, decided that the representatives of the Department of Tele-communications might be called to appear before them at their next sitting to explain the reasons for non-implementation of the assurances given by their Minister from time to time.

8. The Committee decided to hold their next sitting on Wednesday, February 23, 1994 at 15.00 hours.

9. The Committee then adjourned.

**APPENDIX II**  
(Vide Para 5 of the Introduction)

**MINUTES**  
**FOURTH SITTING**

*Minutes of sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances held on February 23, 1994, in Committee Room No. 'C' Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi*

---

The Committee met on Wednesday, February 23, 1994 from 13.00 to 14.00 hours.

**PRESENT**

Shri Basudeb Acharia — *Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

2. Shri P.F. Kaliaperumal
3. Major D.D. Khanoria
4. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
5. Shri G. Ganga Reddy
6. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
7. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

**SECRETARIAT**

Shri Murari Lal — *Joint Secretary*  
Shri Joginder Singh — *Deputy Secretary*  
Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Under Secretary*

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DEPARTMENT OF TELE-COMMUNICATIONS)**

1. Shri N. Vittal, Secretary
2. Shri M.G. Kulkarni, Member Service
3. Shri G.S.S. Murthy, Sr. DDG(CS)

2. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-Communications) in connection with non-implementation of the following assurances given on:—

- (i) July 18, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 85 regarding Athreya Committee report on Tele-communication restructuring.
- (ii) July 25, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 550 regarding out of turn telephone connections.
- (iii) July 25, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 146 regarding electronic telephone exchanges in Ahmedabad.

- (iv) August 1, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 1304 regarding telephone connections on out of turn basis.
- (v) August 8, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 365 regarding Constitution of Tele-communication Advisory Committee.
- (vi) August 8, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 2251 regarding new telephone connections.
- (vii) August 22, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 4046 regarding Dish Antennas.
- (viii) August 29, 1991 in reply to SQ No. 622 regarding Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam.
- (ix) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6818 regarding new Telephone Connections.
- (x) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6911 regarding new Tele-communication Policy.
- (xi) September 12, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 6934 regarding involvement of private sector in Tele-communication Services.

3. At the outset, the Chairman drew the attention of the witnesses to Direction 58 of the Directions by the Speaker and explained to them that their evidence was likely to be treated as public and liable to be published unless the witnesses specifically desired that all or any part of the evidence given by them was to be treated as confidential. It was also explained to the witness that even though the evidence was desired to be confidential, such evidence was liable to be made available to the Members of Parliament.

4. The Committee enquired the reasons for the delay in implementing the assurances within three months and for not seeking extension of time in some cases. The representatives of the Department of the Tele-communications replied that their Department always tried to give reply as far as possible on the floor of the House and whenever any assurance was given immediately thereon, they tried to give details as quickly as possible in fulfilment of the assurances. The witness further explained the following reasons for delay in implementation of these assurances:—

“...we have a vast network throughout the country and the question which calls for statistical information sometimes means getting the latest information from the field officers and that results in some unavoidable delays.

Further the assurances relate to policy issues, where the decision making involves a process of deliberation and by its very nature sometimes there are unavoidable delays which we greatly regret. Where policies are concerned, there are some delays and where statistical information has to be collected from a large number of field officers, there are delays.”

5. The Committee observed that they were very liberal in granting extension of time, whenever, extension was sought, the Committee enquired as to why extension of time had not been sought well in advance.

The witnesses submitted as follows:—

“Firstly I would like to submit that we have the greatest respect for this Committee. We will be the last person, as the Chairman has said, to treat this Committee in a lackadaisical manner. We have a dedicated Parliament Section. We have got one Additional Secretary to look after this. As I have already said, the proposals for seeking extension of time come through me. We have Member (Services) and Member (Production). We have also four other Officers for this purpose.

I would like to assure you that the assurances are being treated in a very serious manner. Out of 11 assurances, five assurances had been fulfilled. In one case, it is not a regular assurance and it is only some clarification was needed in the case of Ahmedabad. Among the remaining five cases, three cases are of delay and in regard to the other two cases, information has to be collected. I would like to tell this Committee that our Department receives a large number of questions on every question day. If you look at the number of assurances given and the number of questions answered, you may appreciate that we may not be doing so badly but, we will take all your observations seriously. We will further try to improve.”

6. The Committee further enquired whether any action had been taken against the defaulting officers for not seeking extension of time and for keeping the assurances pending for two years. In reply the witness submitted as follows:—

“if you analyse the reasons for the delay, the delay took place in those cases where some policy issues are involved. Take for example, New Tele-communication Policy, Dish Antennas etc. These are the cases where there should be some delay.”

7. The Committee further interrogated that how far it is justified to keep the Member waiting for a reply about the condition of one telephone exchange. Witnesses replied as under:—

“The reply was sent to the Member as well as to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on July 12, 1993.

I submit that what happened in this case was that it did not take so long as two years to get information. The officials initially did not consider it as an assurance. Later on it was brought to our notice and as soon as we came to know about it, we collected and gave the information.”

In the reply on the floor of the House the Minister said that the



telephone exchanges in Ahmedabad are to be replaced by electronic exchange in Eighth Plan. We thought that this was a satisfactory reply. Only when the letter came that it was an assurance and details to be given, we got the information and give it to the Members. It was only after 1991 the policy of manufacturing equipment was liberalised. We now have resource crunch. In the Eighth Plan we propose to convert line finder stronger and MAX-III exchanges into electronic exchanges as per the Eighth Plan of the department."

8. In reply to a query whether all the telephone exchanges that had outlived their life of 25 years were going to be converted into electronic exchanges during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the witnesses replied that there are 17368 exchanges in India and out of which 65% of them were electronic exchanges and 35% were non-electronic exchanges. Out of these 35% non-electronic exchanges, 80% were the rural exchanges. It was stated that by 1997 all the non-electronic exchanges would be converted into electronic exchanges. The further details were indicated as under:—

"There is a life prescribed for various exchanges and after this life is over, they are being replaced. Actually they are being replaced well in schedule. Every year, when we have a plan, we have certain number of lines being replaced. By 1997, we expect 90% direct exchange lines converted into electronic exchange lines."

9. The Committee enquired about fixation of the priority and the criteria followed for converting non-electronic exchanges into electronic exchanges. The witness gave the following details:—

"We are not so rich to replace any exchange before its life time. But wherever demand is exceeding the present capacity in rural exchanges we are replacing the MAX-3 exchange by electronic exchange. 80% of the total exchanges are village exchanges.

In order to give better service to high calling rate/STD subscribers, we are transferring them electronic exchanges. Suppose some electronic exchanges are installed in the city where electro-mechanical exchanges exist calling rate STD subscribers are transferred to electronic exchanges. Thus we are able to utilise the electronised equipment for full life period.

We will not be able to replace all the non-electronic exchanges even by 1997 because they would not have completed their life. But because of change in technology; we will be able to give better service to electro-mechanised exchange subscribers. The entire congestion in these exchanges will disappear and the maximum staff will be available for maintenance of these non-electronic exchanges as electronic exchanges do not require much maintenance and they require very small number of staff."

10. Regarding the assurance given on August 22, 1991 in reply to USQ No. 4046 regarding Dish Antenna, the Committee enquired as to why the assurance had been pending since long. The witness replied as under:—

"This is pending. There is difference of opinion between the Ministry of Home Affairs and our Ministry. The Ministry of Home Affairs very rightly pointed out that in view of the disturbed conditions in certain parts of the country, it is not possible to adopt a more liberal approach for dish antennas. We are thinking that it is better to adopt a more liberal approach in this matter, as it is very difficult for DOT to implement the decision. The Home Ministry is to be consulted and we have to come to some compromise. We will be able to come to a decision within a month. Once you are having a dish antenna we thought it is not possible for us to implement unless Ministry of Home Affairs point out that this man has not taken the licence only then we start action under the Indian Telegraph Act... It is not possible to practically monitor each of the antenna. If the Home Ministry were to tell us which are the areas to be watched, then we can pay attention to them. We are basically a technical department. We are providing the services. We do not have enough resources to monitor every activity. That is why, this responsibility is of the Home Ministry. We can go by their advice so far as monitoring a particular antenna is concerned. But it is not possible for us to do for the whole country. That is why, the issue is pending. I have given an assurance that I will give a reply within one month."

11. The Committee further enquired about the assurance given on August 29, 1991 in reply to \$Q No. 622 regarding Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam. To it, the witnesses replied as under:—

"Regarding the question of the Calcutta MTNL, it may be pointed out that there was a strike in 1990. They paid Rs. 100 extra to every duty employee as interim relief which was withdrawn. A Committee was formed, called Atreya Committee. That Committee unanimously recommended that there should not be any duality in the telecom net (Corporation and the DoT). We have not put it up to the Government and the decision is awaited... what has happened is, the Atreya Committee have recommended for a uniform system. They have recommended for corporatising the whole DoT. Today there is a duality in our structure. Delhi and Bombay are under the MTNL which is a public sector undertaking and in rest of the places, they are under the Department of Telecom. Secondly, they recommend that the whole department should be Corporatised. There should be regional corporations in four regions and one holding corporation. This was submitted in March 1991. In July 1991, the present Government came to power. This has been under consideration of the Government. The whole question of restructuring of the department keeping in mind the Atreya Committee Report is before the Government. The Government will have to take a final decision about restructuring, they have not taken a decision yet."

12. The Committee desired to know the progress made regarding finalising of the New Telecommunication policy which has been pending since 1984. The witness explained the position as follows:—

“I am aware of the fact. From 1984, there has been talk about the National Telecommunication Policy. The draft was prepared some time in 1991, but ultimately it could not get the approval even within the Government itself, at the level of various Ministries. And you will be glad to know that now, at least, a draft paper has been prepared. It is right now before the highest levels in Government and we expect the policy to be approved very soon and then it will be placed before Parliament in the current session. The latest position is that a draft Telecom Policy has been recommended by the Telecom Commission and it was submitted to the Government. The Government is deliberating on it at the highest levels.

...Sir, that 1992 draft did not pass muster because there were serious differences of opinion between the Department of Telecommunications and other Ministries.

After obtaining the concurrence of all the Ministries, a revised draft policy has been formulated. It is now at the highest levels of the Government. After due deliberations, it will be placed before Parliament in the current Session.”

13. The witness again affirmed that it would be approved and announced during the Current Session.

14. Regarding the assurance given on August 8, 1991 in reply to SQ. No. 365 regarding constitution of Telecommunication Advisory Committee, the Committee enquired the reasons for not implementing the assurance by that time. In reply, the witnesses stated that the question was related to the Constitution of 51 Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) so they had given that information.

15. The Committee further sought elucidation whether all these Committees had been constituted. The representative replied in the Positive and further explained as under:—

“Sir, constitution of TACs is a continuous process because after a certain duration, they will lapse and a new TAC has to be formed. The date varies from place to place because new TACs are formed, as the old TACs become defunct... We have got 321 secondary switching areas in the country and in addition to that there are about 20 circles ... wherever the secondary switching areas is headed by a Director or by an officer of a Junior administrative grade or by a General Manager or by a District Manager, in all those places, TACs have to be formed and they are being formed. There will be one TAC at the circle level also.”

16. The Committee further enquired whether there existed a cell in the

Ministry to monitor, seek extension of time and process the implementation of the assurances quickly. The representatives of the Department of Telecommunication assured that they would have a centralised monitoring system installed in their Ministry and also clarified the position as follows:—

“We have a Parliament Section in our Ministry and we have different divisions; each division pursues it and the Parliament Section acts at the section level as the coordinator and at the Commission level we will be reviewing from time to time the implementation of the programme. That is how we monitor it... my information is that we have been normally seeking extension in time. But this is now being done in different sections. So we will have a centralised monitoring system installed. We have got a Parliament Section already, so that on this particular issue of seeking extension of time also we will monitor, so that we will have a tighter control than what we have.”

17. The witnesses withdrew.

*The Committee then adjourned.*

### Appendix-III

(Vide Para 5 of the Introduction)

#### MINUTES

#### EIGHTH SITTING

*Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances held on June 6, 1994 in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi*

The Committee met on Monday, June 6, 1994 from 15.00 hours to 15.40 hours.

#### PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia—*Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

2. Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat
3. Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal
4. Shri Harpal Panwar
5. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
6. Shri Yoganand Saraswati
7. Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan

#### SECRETARIAT

Shri Murari Lal — *Joint Secretary*  
Shri Joginder Singh — *Director*  
Shri Ram Autar Ram — *Under Secretary*

2. The Committee considered and adopted their 21st Report. The Committee authorised the Chairman to present the Report in the House during the ensuing session of the Lok Sabha.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

8. The Committee then adjourned.

## ANNEXURE I

(Vide Para 2 of the Report &amp; Para No. 6 of Appendix I)

First Session, 1991 of Tenth Lok Sabha  
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	Extentions		Remarks
			sought on	upto	
1	2	3	4	5	6
CATEGORY 'A'					
1. SQ. No. 589 Dt. 28.8.91 by Dr. Asim Bala	ALLEGED PAYMENT OF COMMISSION FOR GET- TING SUPPLY ORDER BY IDPL (a) whether any inquiry into al- leged payment of commis- sion by the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for getting supply order has since been made; (b) if so, the findings thereof; and (c) if not, the reasons, there- fore?	(a), (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The facts have been ascertained in considerable de- tail by the Govt. I have since asked the Department of Public Enterprises (BPE) to enquire into the matter and advise us for further action.	27.11.91 18.2.92 25.5.92 NIL 16.11.92 26.2.93	27.2.92 27.5.92 27.8.92 28.11.92 27.2.93 27.5.93	

**FIRST SESSION, 1991 OF TENTH LOK SABHA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (Department of Civil Aviation)**

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	Extensions		Remarks
			sought on	upto	
1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	USQ. No. 4545 Dt. 27.8.91 by Shri Sriballav Panigrahi	<b>AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS IN VAYUDOOT</b> (a) Whether the Government have come across any case of misappropriation of accounts in the Vayudoot; (b) if so, the details thereof; (c) whether the accounts were audited during the last three years; and (d) if so, the details of the audit objections?	<b>CATEGORY 'A'</b> (a) & (b): Some cases of alleged financial irregularities are under examination. (c) & (d): The audited accounts of the Company, for the period upto and including the year 1986-87 have been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The accounts of 1987-88 have been audited. The accounts for the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 have been prepared, but are yet to be audited.		

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (Department of Tourism)

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

3. USQ No. 4546  
Dt. 27.8.91  
by Shri Bhagwan  
Shankar Rawat

**TOURISM PROJECTS IN CATEGORY 'A'**

**UTTAR PRADESH**

- (a) the details of Tourism proposal sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh which are pending for approval with the Union Government;
- (b) the action taken so far in each case; and
- (c) the reasons for delay, if any?
- (a) & (b):  
The proposals for purchase of adventure sports equipment, tents, flood lighting of monuments received from the U.P. Government recently are under examination. The proposals for construction of Yatri Niwas of Ayodhya and Chitrakoot have been referred to Central Public Works Department for preparation of detailed estimates. Incomplete proposals for construction of a tourist complex and two wayside facilities received from U.P. to them for getting certain clarifications.



## MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

## CATEGORY 'A'

4.	USQ No. 6437 Dt. 10.9.91 by Shri Hari Kewal Prasad	ENQUIRY IN AIRBUS A-320 DEAL (a) whether the enquiry being conducted regarding technical lacuna in airbus A-320 has since been completed; (b) if so, the time by which its report would be available; (c) whether the Government have completed the investigation into payment of commission in Airbus A-320 deal; and (d) if so, the action being taken in this regard?	3.1.94	10.6.94	The Committee considered the dropping request of the Ministry at their sitting held on 27.12.92 vide Memorandum No. 21 and decide not to drop the assurance.
					CBI Investigations are still in progress.

**FIRST SESSION, 1991 OF TENTH LOK SABHA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	Extensions		Remarks
			sought on	upto	
1	2	3	4	5	6

**CATEGORY 'B'**

5. SQ. No. 714  
 Dt. 06.09.91  
 Supplementary  
 Shri M.R.  
 Janarthanan

**INTEREST RATES OF  
EXPORT CREDIT**

The Hon. Member stated as  
 under:—

"The Minister has stated that  
 had simplified the procedures  
 to boost the exports. The  
 Secna leaves cultivated in the  
 Southern districts of Tamil  
 Nadu have been exported for  
 the past 75 years. But, of  
 late, they are finding prob-  
 lems in their exports. Is the  
 Ministry aware that the  
 Ministry of Environment are  
 asking them to produce a  
 forest certificate that it is a  
 cultivated plant? Will the  
 Ministry come to the rescue  
 of Secna exporters who are  
 exporting for the past 75  
 years?"

The Minister stated, "I do not  
 have the information at present.  
 I will supply the information to  
 the Hon. Member."

15.7.93 6.10.93  
 27.9.93 31.12.93

1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>6. USQ No. 2347 Dt. 09.08.91 by Shri Phool Chand Verma</p>	<p><b>IMPORTS BY PEPSI FOODS</b> (a) Whether the Pepsi Foods has requested the Government to amend their condition of Letter of Intent/ Foreign Collaboration approval and to allow the import of proprietary ingredients and to drop the condition that 5 dollars have to be earned for every dollar spent on imports;</p> <p>(b) whether Pepsi Foods is importing the special formula for the domestic market; and</p> <p>(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?</p>	<p>(a) to (c) the information is being collected and on receipt of the same shall be laid on the Table of the House.</p>	NIL	NIL	Partly Impl. on 26.2.92 SS. 1V/11

FIRST SESSION, 1991 OF TENTH LOK SABHA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	Extentions		Remarks
			sought on	upto	
1	2	3	4	5	6

CATEGORY 'A'

7. SQ No. 85  
 Dt. 18.7.91  
 by Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
- ATHREYA COMMITTEE (a) and (b) REPORT ON TELCOM RE-STRUCTURING**
- (a) Whether the Government have examined the Athreya Committee Report on Telecom restructuring; and
- (b) if so, the decision taken thereon, particularly on the winding up of the MTNL set up?
- The Athreya Committee Report on organisational structure for management of telecom/services is under examination of the Government for taking appropriate decision on the various recommendations.
- 30.10.91 28.02.92 It will take  
 25.02.92 30.09.92 more time be-  
 28.09.92 31.12.92 fore final deci-  
 16.12.92 03.06.93 sion is taken  
 21.06.93 30.09.93 on the recom-  
 29.09.93 31.03.94 mendations of  
 the Com-  
 mittee.

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

**CATEGORY 'A'**

8 USQ No. 550

Da. 25.7.91

By Shri Satya  
Narayan Jatiya

**OUT OF TURN  
TELEPHONE CONNEC-  
TIONS**

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned out of turn from January, 1991 to June, 1991 in the country, month-wise; and

(b) the details of the out-of-turn telephone connections sanctioned or the recommendations of each Member of Parliament and Minister?

(b) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

14.11.91

30.06.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>9. SQ No. 146 Dt. 25.07.91 Supplementary by Shri Harin Pathak</p>	<p><b>ELECTRONIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN AHMEDABAD</b> The Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the prescribed life of the old type of telephone exchanges is 25 years. I would like to know from him, through you, whether the efficiency of exchanges which have been outlived 25 years is affected in any way?</p> <p>The four exchanges which have been named in part (c) of the reply viz. Central Rampur gate Cantonment and Ellis Bridge how old are they?</p>	<p><b>TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN AHMEDABAD</b> All the telephone exchanges in the country which are 25 years old or have outlived their prescribed life will be converted into electronic exchanges during the Eighth Five Year Plan. That is our target. About the age of these four telephone exchanges I would write to the Hon. Member because the information about the life of these exchanges is not available with me right now.</p>	NIL	NIL	

1	2	3	4	5	6
10. USQ No. 1304 Dt. 1.8.91 by Shri Rajinath Sonkar Shastri	TELEPHONE CONNEC- TIONS ON OUT OF TURN BASIS	(a) to (c): It was <i>inter-alia</i> stated, "The investigation is in progress and the report is awaited."	NIL	NIL	6
	(a) whether there have been cases of forgery of sig- natures of the former Minister of Communica- tions in the matter of re- lease of telephone connec- tions on out of turn basis in the recent past;				
	(b) if so, the details thereof; and				
	(c) the action taken or prop- osed to be taken in the matter?				

## CATEGORY 'A'

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

CATEGORY 'A'

11. SQ. No. 345  
Dt. 8.8.91  
by Shri Bhagey Gobardhan
- CONSTITUTION OF TELE-COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- (a) whether the Telecommunication Advisory Committee constituted for different States have been superseded;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) time by which new Committees are likely to be constituted?
- (a), (b) & (c)  
It was *inter alia* stated, "Telephone/Telecom Advisory Committees and the Central Advisory Committee constituted by the previous caretaker Govt. are being reviewed."
- 20.11.91  
13.03.92  
23.06.92  
29.01.93  
23.07.93  
22.10.93
- 29.02.92  
30.06.92  
31.10.92  
31.03.93  
30.09.93  
31.03.94
- Advance Implementation Report received on 11.1.1994.



12. USQ No. 2251  
Dt. 8.8.91  
By Shri Rajveer  
Singh

NEW TELEPHONE CON-  
NECTIONS  
(a) the number of telephone  
connections sanctioned  
during April this year  
alongwith the number of  
telephones installed out of  
them; and  
(b) the time by which the re-  
maining connections are  
likely to be provided.

CATEGORY 'A'

(a) the number of telephone  
connections sanctioned on  
out of turn priority basis  
during April 1991 is 5480.  
The information regarding  
the number of telephone in-  
stalled out of these, is being  
collected from the field un-  
its and will be placed on  
the Table of the House.  
(b) The telephone connections  
in respect of those to whom  
these telephone connections  
have been sanctioned on  
out-of-turn basis will be in-  
stalled progressively after  
observance of departmental  
formalities and subject to  
technical feasibility.

## CATEGORY 'A'

13. USQ No. 3869	RESTORATION OF SORT-	(c) The matter is under active	31.12.91	The suggestion
Dt. 22.8.91	ING SECTIONS IN R.M.S.	consideration of the	31.05.92	of the Sub-
by Smt. Sushreea	(a) whether the Sub-Commit-	Government.	31.12.92	Committee of
Gopalan	tee of the Parliamentary		31.12.93	Parliamentary
	Consultative Committee of		06.10.93	Consultative
	the Ministry of Communi-		07.12.93	Committee for
	cations appointed in July			the Ministry of
	1987 on the restoration of			Communica-
	sorting sections in R.M.S.			tions regarding
	has submitted its report;			restoration of
	(b) if so, the details of its			sorting sec-
	recommendations; and			tions over the
	(c) the action taken/proposed			selected routes
	to be taken by the			is still under
	Government thereon?			examination.

CATEGORY 'A'

14. USQ No. 4046 MISUSE OF DISH AN- (a) & (b): The operating licenses 22.08.91 The draft  
 Dt. 22.8.91 TENNAS to establish, maintain or work 16.11.92 notification on  
 by Shri Gangadhara (a) whether it has come to the dish antenna and associated 18.03.93 de-licensing of  
 Sanipalli notice of the Government front end converter used or cap- 24.01.94 dish antennas  
 that the dish antennas for able of being used for the recep- tion of television programme is at present  
 reviewing of foreign prog- from the Indian Satellite only is under consid-  
 rammes are being misused; being issued by the various field eration in the  
 and units of Department of Telecom- Ministry of  
 (b) if so, the steps the Govern- munications. There have been re- Home Affairs.  
 nment have taken in this re- ports that these can be used for receiving television programmes  
 gard? from foreign satellite also. The dish antenna are licensed for Indian Satellite. There are re- ports that the antenna are being used for receiving foreign prog- rammes also.

30.06.92  
 30.04.93  
 30.06.93  
 31.03.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	<p>SQ. No. 622            Dt. 29.8.91            by Shri Satyagopal Misra</p> <p><b>CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM</b>            (a) the steps taken by the Government to set up the Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam?</p>	<p><b>CATEGORY 'A'</b>            The recommendations of the High Level Committee (Athreya Committee) set up by the Government for recommending the most appropriate structure for Telecom Department are under active consideration. Since Calcutta Telephones is a part of the telecom structure of the country, any decision regarding setting up of the Calcutta Mahanagar Telephone Nigam will be taken as a part of the decisions or the recommendations of the Committee.</p>	<p>02.11.91            20.03.92            28.09.92            19.03.93            28.09.93</p>	<p>31.03.92            30.09.92            31.03.93            30.09.93            31.03.94</p>	<p>It will take some more time before a final decision is taken on the recommendations of the Committee.</p>

1	2	3	4	5	6
16. USQ No. 6818 Dt. 12.9.91 by Shri Harikewal Prasad	NEW TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS (a) whether the orders issued for telephone connections upto March 31, 1991 have been cancelled; (b) if not, the reasons for not implementing those orders; (c) the number of subscribers who have since been allotted telephone connections upto the said date out of the telephone connections for which orders have been issued earlier and the number of those which are yet to be allotted?	CATEGORY 'A' (c) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	19.11.91	30.06.92	

17.	USQ No. 6911 Dt. 12.9.91 by Shri C.P. Mudalagiriappa	CATEGORY 'A'	NEW TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY Whether the Government propose to formulate new telecommunication policy?	Yes, Sir. The policy is under consideration of Government.	03.04.92 19.10.92 04.02.94	15.07.92 15.01.93 15.04.94	As the Policy paper may take some more time before the same is finalised. The Committee have given reports on a similar issue earlier.
-----	---	--------------	---	--	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. USQ No. 6934 Dt. 12.9.91 by Sri Saat Kumar Mandal	INVOLVEMENT OF PRI- VATE SECTOR IN TELE- COMMUNICATION SER- VICES	(a) whether the Government have decided to open to the private sector the vari- ous telecom value-added services which are at pre- sent provided by the public sector organisations such as Video Saachar Nigam, National Informatics Centre and CMC Ltd.;	NIL	NIL	NIL
		(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions thereof; and			
		(c) the control, technical, administrative and other, which Government will ex- ercise over them?			
	CATEGORY 'A'				

**ANNEXURE-II***(Vide Para 4 of the Report)**(Vide Para 1.2 of the Report)***STATEMENT SHOWING ASSURANCES REVIEWED**

<b>Ministry/Department</b>	<b>Sl. Nos. of the Appendices</b>	<b>Total No. of Assurances</b>
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Civil Aviation and Tourism</b>	<b>2, 3 and 4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Commerce</b>	<b>5 and 6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>7 to 18</b>	<b>12</b>
		<b>18</b>



**(Vide Item No. 18 of Para 2.4 of the Report)**

**NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY, 1994**

**Introduction:**

The new economic policy adopted by the Government aims at improving India's competitiveness in the global market and rapid growth of exports. Another element of the new economic policy is attracting foreign direct investment and stimulating domestic investment. Telecommunication services of world class quality are necessary for the success of this policy. It is, therefore, necessary to give the highest priority to the development of telecom services in the country.

**Objectives:**

2. The objectives of the New Telecom Policy will be as follows:

(a) The focus of the Telecom Policy shall be telecommunication for all and telecommunication within the reach of all. This means ensuring the availability of telephone on demand as early as possible.

(b) Another objective will be to achieve universal service covering all villages as early as possible. What is meant by the expression universal service is the provision of access to all people for certain basic telecom services at affordable and reasonable prices.

(c) The quality of telecom services should be of world standard. Removal of consumer complaints, dispute resolution and public interface will receive special attention: The objective will also be to provide widest permissible range of services to meet the customer's demand at reasonable prices.

(d) Taking into account India's size and development, it is necessary to ensure that India emerges as a major manufacturing base and major exporter of telecom equipment.

(e) The defence and security interests of the country will be protected.

**Present status:**

3. The present telephone density in India is about 0.8 per hundred persons as against the world average of 10 per hundred persons. It is also lower than that of many developing countries of Asia like China (1.7), Pakistan (2), Malaysia (13) etc. There are about 8 million lines with a waiting list of about 2.5 million. Nearly 1.4 lakh villages, out of a total of 5,76,490 villages in the country, are covered by telephone services. There are more than 1 lakh public call offices in the urban areas.

**Revised targets:**

4. In view of the recent growth of the economy and the reassessed demand, it is necessary to revise the VIII Plan targets as follows:

(a) Telephone should be available on demand by 1997.

(b) All villages should be covered by 1997.

(c) In the urban areas a PCO should be provided for every 500 persons by 1997.

(d) All value-added services available internationally should be introduced in India to raise the telecom services in India to international standards well within the VIII Plan period, preferably by 1996.

**Resources for the revised targets:**

5. The rapid acceleration of telecom services visualised above would require supplementing the resources allocated to this sector in the VIII Plan. The total demand (working connections + waiting list) showed a rise of nearly 50% from 7.03 million on 1.4.92 to 10.5 million on 1.4.94 over a three year period. If the demand grows at the same rate for the next three years, it would touch about 15.8 million by 1.4.97. The actual rate of growth is likely to be higher as the economy is expected to grow at a faster pace. Achieving the target of giving telephone on demand by 1997 would thus imply releasing about 10 million connections during the VIII Plan as against the existing target of 7.5 million. Release of 2.5 million additional lines alone would require extra resources to the tune of Rs. 11,750 crores at a unit cost of Rs. 47,000 per line at 1993-94 prices. To this must be added the requirement on account of additional rural connections of Rs. 4,000 crores.

6. Even with the comparatively modest targets of the VIII Plan, as originally fixed, there is a resource gap of Rs. 7,500 crores. The additional resources required to achieve the revised targets would be well over Rs. 23,000 crores. Clearly this is beyond the capacity of Government funding and internal generation of resources. Private investment and association of the private sector would be needed in a big way to bridge the resource gap. Private initiative would be used to complement the Departmental efforts to raise additional resources both through increased internal generation and adopting innovative means like leasing, deferred payments, BOT, BLT, BTO etc.

**Hardware**

7. With the objective of meeting the telecom needs of the country the sector of manufacture of telecom equipment has been progressively

delicensed. Substantial capacity has already been created for the manufacture of the necessary hardware within the country. The capacity for manufacture of switching equipment, for example, exceeded 1.7 million lines/year in 1993 and is projected to exceed 3 million lines/year by 1997. The capacity for manufacture of telephone instruments at 8.4 million units per year is far in excess of the existing or the projected demand. Manufacturing capacities for wireless terminal equipment, Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) for rural communication, optical fibre cables, underground cables etc. have also been established to take care of the requirements of the VIII Plan. With the revision of the targets demand would firm up and there would be an incentive to expand the capacities to meet the extra requirement.

**Value-added services:**

8. In order to achieve standards comparable to the international facilities, the sub-sector of value-added services was opened up to private investment in July 1992 for the following services:

- (a) Electronic Mail
- (b) Voice Mail
- (c) Data Services
- (d) Audio Text Services
- (e) Video Text Services
- (f) Video Conferencing
- (g) Radio Paging
- (h) Cellular Mobile Telephone.

9. In respect of the first six of these services companies registered in India are permitted to operate under license on non-exclusive basis. This policy would be continued. In view of the constraints on the number of companies that can be allowed to operate in the area of Radio Paging and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, however, a policy of selection is being followed in grant of licenses through a system of tendering. This policy will also be continued and the following criteria will be applied for selection:

- (i) Track record of the company;
- (ii) Compatibility of the technology;
- (iii) Usefulness of the technology being offered for future development;
- (iv) Protection of national security interests;
- (v) Ability to give the best quality of service to the consumer at the most competitive cost; and
- (vi) Attractiveness of the commercial terms to the Department of Telecommunications.

**Basic services:**

10. With a view to supplement the effort of the Department of Telecommunications in providing telecommunications services to the people, companies registered in India will be allowed to participate in the expansion of the telecommunication network in the area of basic telephone services also. These companies will be required to maintain a balance in their coverage between urban and rural areas. Their conditions of operation will include agreed tariff and revenue sharing arrangements. Other terms applicable to such companies will be similar to those indicated above for value-added services.

**Pilot Projects:**

11. Pilot project will be encouraged directly by the Government in order to access new technologies, new systems in both basic as well as value added services.

**Technology and strategic aspects:**

12. Telecommunication is a vital infrastructure. It is also technology intensive. It is therefore necessary that the administration of the policy in the telecom sector is such that the inflow of technology is made easy and India does not lag behind in getting the full advantage of the emerging new technologies. An equally important aspect is the strategic aspect of telecom which affects the national and public interests. It is therefore necessary to encourage indigenous technology, set up a suitable funding mechanism for indigenous R&D so that the Indian technology can meet the national demand and also compete globally.

**Implementation:**

13. In order to implement the above policy, suitable arrangements will have to be made to (a) protect and promote the interests of the consumers; and (b) ensure fair competition.