

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:637  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009  
PUBLICATION OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES  
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any time frame for bringing out new telephone directories in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether telephone directories have not been released in several States during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the timely release of telephone directories and the corrigenda in the meantime?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. No time frame has been fixed by the Government. However, a policy exists for release of telephone directories of Basic Telephones of BSNL/MTNL once in three years (Main Directory in the first year followed by supplementary directories in the next two years).
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. In spite of best efforts, there have been delays in bringing out new directories in some cases. The delay in printing of telephone directories is mainly due to:-
  - (i) Inadequate bidding to tenders resulting in re-tendering.
  - (ii) Cancellation of tenders due to non availability of competitive rates or single bid.
  - (iii) Disputes after award of contracts with the bidder.
- (e) The steps taken by BSNL to ensure the timely release of printed telephone directory are as under:
  - (i) Full powers have been delegated to Chief General Managers of the Telecom Circles to reduce the delay in finalizing tender for printing of directory.
  - (ii) Telecom Circles may accept tender on negative royalty.