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Title: Need to provide telephone connection to all the applicants in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Sir, in Kerala, there is a heavy waiting list for telephone connections. There are 11 Secondary Switching Areas in Kerala Circle. All the 11 SSAs' total waiting list number is around six lakhs. The total waiting number for OYT is 789, Special Category - 75,375, and Non-OYT - five lakhs. This status is as on 31.1.2003. From 1995 onwards, this heavy waiting list is continuing in all the SSAs. The subscribers are very much angry with BSNL because they do not get timely telephone connections. BSNL is not taking any initiative for reducing the Waiting List.

As you are aware, the Kerala is called an NRI-State Therefore, every family needs a telephone connection at its house. But BSNL is closing its eyes. The allotment of money for expansion of telephone exchanges is very meagre. Also the allotment of equipment and cable are not sufficient. The Directorate of BSNL has been neglecting the development of Kerala Telecom.

Kerala is having highest demand for telephone connections. Everyday thousands of applicants register for the telephone connections. But the BSNL is not planning for that in advance to tackle the problem.

Therefore, I strongly demand through this august House to take urgent steps for clearing the waiting list and for providing land phone connections for all the applicants immediately. I may suggest to the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology to convene a meeting of the Kerala Members of Parliament, the concerned Minister from Kerala, and BSNL officials in Kerala or Delhi at the earliest.