

Title: Need for a separate satellite for Indian Information Technology Industry.

* SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Sir, Information Technology is at a fast pace and India has entered the 21st Century, making new strides in that field. Adopting computer technology for rural development has been the watchword of both the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh have taken up updated computerisation with farsightedness. In standardising Tamil keyboard and in providing common computer coded Tamil script, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has gone a step further and has enabled access to the World Wide Web sites using Tamil. Tamil Nadu has gone in for computerising the revenue records maintenance. The Union Minister of Communications has recently stated that telecommunication links for Internet connection would be strengthened but the infrastructure development for information technology goes on at a slow pace. This, at times, affects the rail and air reservation. Even the banking sector is not spared from the technical snags.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to work for setting apart a separate satellite for the Indian IT industry. The State Governments may also be involved in 'bandwidth allocation'. The Railways are now planning to provide a communication link to the IT industry through optical fibre cable line laid along the railway lines. Pioneering States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh may also be involved in this infrastructure development so that they may have a share in these ventures. Hence, I urge upon the Information Technology Ministry to take co-ordinated efforts involving all concerned.