

Education, Operation Blackboard and continuing education have shown enough incentive and momentum.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This programme is a total failure.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It may be a total failure in certain States or in certain pockets. But there are certain very good features of this scheme also. Till now, 5.23 lakh primary schools have been covered and 1.49 single teacher schools have been converted into dual teacher school.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I am sorry Mr. Minister. Please answer who are the officers responsible. The taxpayers money worth Rs. 175 crore was not spent for our education and for the education of our children in the villages.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The schemes are implemented by the State Governments. In these areas, the officers are appointed by the State Governments. If you can give me a certain instance of any officer not doing his duty, I will inquire into it. Otherwise, this information will have to be collected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I am not working in your Department. Why should I give the information about any officer concerned. First, the answer should be given. This is very serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Panja, this scheme is running for the last so many years. I am responsible for what has happened in the last three months and odd days only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement.

Statement-I

Village Public Telephone Programme targets & achievements of VPT Programme from 1994-95 to 1997-98 since National Telecom Policy, 1994

Telecom Circles	Total Target from 1994-95 to 1997-98 after National Telecom Policy 94	Total Achievement from 1994-95 to 1997-98 after National Telecom Policy 94
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	634	196
Andhra Pradesh	13400	8806
Assam	12900	8250
Bihar	39964	10069
Gujarat	9000	5182
Haryana	4220	3244

* Not recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: In these three months and odd days, the Government has taken very serious steps about it. About what happened for the last ten years, I would say that the responsibility lies on the Members sitting opposite side.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Mr. Minister, thank you.

Public Telephones

*284. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets have been fixed by the Government to provide public telephones in each and every village of the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made vis-a-vis these targets; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Department of Telecom has fixed targets to provide Village Public Telephone (VPT) in all villages of the country.

The State-wise target fixed and the achievements thereof from 1994-95 upto 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement—I.

The target for 1998-99 is shown in enclosed Statement—II.

1	2	3
Himachal	7000	4285
Jammu & Kashmir	4700	1926
Karnataka	16200	15833
Kerala	18	18
Madhya Pradesh	32949	21128
Maharashtra	21700	16213
North East	6300	2036
Orissa	27719	13344
Punjab	9140	5776
Rajasthan	23840	14537
Tamil Nadu	8869	7793
Uttar Pradesh (East)	61500	22637
Uttar Pradesh (West)	29800	6969
West Bengal	27700	10680
Delhi	47	22
Calcutta	400	421
Total	358000	179365

NE Circle comprises Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland States. MH Circle comprises Maharashtra and Goa States. WB Circle comprises WB and Sikkim States.

Statement-II

Village Public Telephone Programme revised reduced target for 1998-99

Circles		Revised Target Fixed on 1.7.1998	1	2	
1	2				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	53	11.	Madhya Pradesh	4000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	400	12.	Maharashtra	2700
3.	Assam	2900	13.	North East	1000
4.	Bihar	6000	14.	Orissa	2400
5.	Gujarat	0	15.	Punjab	345
6.	Haryana	20	16.	Rajasthan	2540
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1000	17.	Tamil Nadu	142
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1000	18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7500
9.	Karnataka	2500	19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	5500
10.	Kerala	0	20.	West Bengal	5000
			21.	Calcutta	0
			Total	45000	

NE Circle comprises Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland States.

MH Circle Comprises Maharashtra and Goa States.

WB Circle Comprises WB and Sikkim States.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: My question pertains to the target fixed under the first Telecom policy which was formulated in 1994 and according to it all the villages were to be provided with telephone facility by 1997. But I know that so far we have not been able to achieve the 50 per cent of the target. Targets have been revised now and there is a plan to achieve these targets by 1999. I would like to know as to what schemes have been formulated to achieve the targets by the Ninth Plan. What action has been taken in this regard. Secondly there was a plan to provide telephohe facility to 4700 villages of Jammu and Kashmir but so fat only 1500 villages could be provided with telephone facility. All the other means of communications have been cut off there due to insurgency. In view of insurgency prevalent in the region I would like to know as to whether the hon. Minister would give an assurance to provide telephone facility on priority basis in *Dakshin*, Madva and Vadban of Doda district and in border districts?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the questions raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that previous Government could not achieve the targets fixed in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Osmani, please take your seat. This is not a good practice. This is not a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, I am replying to the question raised by hon. Member. The hon. Member has asked whether the target would be achieved by the Ninth Plan? Sir, through you I would like to give an assurance in this House that we would definitely achieve this target by the Ninth Plan and all the villages would be provided with telephone facility. As far as question of according priority to Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, I would like to say that in last session also I had stated that in view of insurgency and militancy in Jammu and Kashmir telephone facility would be provided there on priority basis and Doda district would be given preference in it.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Sir, last time Telecom Commission has taken a decision that 60 per cent telephone connections would be given as per the new system. I would like to know as to why this decision has been reversed? At present 40 per cent telephone connections are being given under MARR and remaining under AAR system. In this regard, I would like to know as to why this policy has been revised?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member about the circumstances under which this decision was reversed? We have inherited those circumstances and under it earlier telephone connections were given as per the MARR system.

On 1st November 1997 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister a meeting was convened and in which decision was taken to discard the 'MARR technology' and find out some new technology. When we took over the charge it was found that since 1st November all the orders

under the 'MARR Telecom were cancelled and a search for new technology started. As so new technology could not be found, therefore instead of giving a fictious figures on paper we tried to achieve the target and thus this decision was reversed.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I was saying that...*(Interruptions)* You may adopt D. R. System...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: High Court has given stay on it...*(Interruptions)* I will tell you about it...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Doordarshan's Channel to States to Telecast Regional Programmes

*285 **SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the second channel of Doordarshan to the State Governments to telecast the regional programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS. (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Estimated Expenditure on Elementary Education

*286. **SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:**

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an estimate of the amount likely to be spent for imparting education to children in the age group of 6 to 14 years for which they had already made a commitment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of children in this age group for whom educational facilities had been provided by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The working group of Elementary Education for IX Five Year Plan has recommended a tentative outlay of Rs. 79,260 crore in the Central sector and Rs. 46,393 crore in the State sector. Allocations for Ninth Five Year Plan have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

(c) The Gross Enrolment Ratio of children in the age group of 6-14 Years has improved during the Eighth Five Year Plan as follows: