

**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: