

Under Utilization of Telephone Lines

3791. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several telephone lines are lying unutilised while millions of people are waiting for telephone connections in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the loss suffered by telecommunications as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) There will always be a gap between the equipped capacity and number of working connections (Direct Exchange Line). The reasons for this gap are given in the Statement.

The Department of Telecom have not suffered any loss because the targets for the provision of new telephone connections were achieved during 1997-98 as well as during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Statement*Reasons for Non-utilisation of Exchange Capacities Fully*

There will always be a gap between the equipped capacity and number of working connections (Direct Exchange Lines). The reasons for this gap are;

1. The exchanges are expanded in modular capacities. Hence,

(a) At the time of commissioning of a large size exchange the expected loading of large size exchanges is low and subsequently it gets loaded subject to the availability of demand. So, with every expansion and commissioning of new system, the utilisation drops to pick up in the later part of the year.

(b) Small and medium size exchanges, the expansion takes place in higher modular capacities which takes a few years to reach full loading.

(c) Department provides 256 port electronic exchanges with an average capacity of 152 lines for a registered demand of ten in rural areas and it takes some years to get optimally loaded. This results in low utilisation of exchange capacity.

2. Need to reserve some switching capacity to meet the emergency requirements of providing temporary and causal connections and also for completing the shifting cases of phone from one area to another.

(3) Need to reserve switching capacity for maintenance (for change of subscriber ports in case of hardware faults) and for test purposes.

4. Need to reserve switching capacity to provide telephone connections for the anticipated OYT registrations.

5. If a telephone connection is to be given on demand, there should be spare capacity to meet the demand for at

least one year as usually the exchanges are planned on an yearly basis.

Telephone Connections in Bihar

[*Translation*]

3792. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for telephone connection in Bihar particularly Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy allotment of telephone connections in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a telephone tower in Sahebganj and Deoria in the Muzaffarpur district of Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The number of application pending for telephone connection as on 31-5-1998.

Bihar	-	66809
District Muzaffarpur	-	2019
District Vaishali	-	3363

(b) The switching capacity of the existing exchanges and the U/G Cable network are being expanded.

(c) No, Sir. There are no plans to set up a telephone tower at these places.

(d) Not applicable in view of the part (c) of the question.

(e) Reliable connectivity to Deoria and Sahebganj is proposed to be provided through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

Assistance for Transmission Schemes of A.P. From OECF, Japan

[*English*]

3793. SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

SHRI M. RAJAI AH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent to Central Electricity Authority two important transmission schemes in Nellore and Visakhapatnam for loan assistance from OECF, Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status in regard to sanction of projects by CEA?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh/ Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board had sent two project proposals viz. (i) Simhadri and Vizay Transmission System Project in Visakhapatnam, (ii) Krishnapatnam Transmission System Project in Nellore for OECF assistance. OECF, Japan has already sanctioned a loan of 10629 million Yen for Phase-I of the Transmission System for evacuation of power from Vizag & Simhadri Power Stations. The Krishnapatnam Transmission System Project will be posed to OECF for assistance as soon as the project receives techno-economic clearance from Central Electricity Authority.

Replacement of Timber Bridges by RC Bridges in Tripura

3794. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that availability of timber for bridges is constrained due to a court order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Tripura has proposed for the replacement of the timber bridges in the State by permanent RC Bridges; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per recent order of the Supreme Court, there is a complete ban on the movement of timber from one State to another. Besides, there is a severe restriction of felling of trees.

(c) and (d) The Government of Tripura has sent one proposal for the replacement of 4 important timber bridges under the scheme of Inter-State or Economic Importance (E&I) for the 9th Five Year Plan. The same would, however, be considered subject to their inter-se priority as well as availability of funds after the finalisation of the 9th Plan.

Capacity Utilisation of Telephone Exchanges

3795. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the capacity utilisation of telephone exchanges during the last three years till date, year-wise, circle-wise;
- (b) the details of loss of revenue on account thereof during the said period;
- (c) the reasons for not fully utilising capacity of the exchanges; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government for exploiting their full potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Capacity utilisation of telephone exchanges for the last three years till March 1998 Circle-wise is given in the Statement-I.

(b) There was no loss of revenue since the targets for providing new telephone connections were achieved in full during the last three years.

(c) Reasons for not utilising the capacity are given in the attached statement-II.

(d) Switching equipments are allotted based on the norms set for capacity utilisation of exchanges and the targets set for new telephone connections every year so that capacity of the exchanges are utilised as per the norms.

Statement-I

Capacity utilisation of exchanges circle-wise

Sl. No.	Circle	31.3.96	31.3.97	31.3.98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	83.9	81.4	80.6
2.	Assam	80.5	80.4	80.8
3.	Bihar	76.9	77.8	79.3
4.	Gujarat	84.3	85.6	88.2
5.	Haryana	76.9	77.3	82.8
6.	H.P.	72.3	76.2	81.2
7.	J & K	67.1	66.9	79.5
8.	Karnataka	84.0	84.6	85.9
9.	Kerala	83.9	80.4	83.1
10.	M.P.	74.3	74.3	76.5
11.	Maharashtra	79.6	81.3	81.9
12.	North East	76.0	75.4	73.7
13.	Orissa	77.6	78.5	87.6
14.	Punjab	85.2	85.2	84.3
15.	Rajasthan	77.8	81.4	83.9
16.	Tamil Nadu	83.5	83.0	84.6
17.	UP (East)	83.5	76.7	74.6
18.	UP (West)	76.0	78.0	79.6
19.	West Bengal	77.6	78.5	81.7
20.	Andaman & Nioibar	78.3	61.3	53.2
21.	Mumbai	86.5	87.1	91.1
22.	Delhi	81.3	83.8	87.5
23.	Calcutta	88.3	83.6	84.5
24.	Chennai	85.8	85.2	84.3
	All India	81.9	82.0	83.7