

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps are being taken for further improvement of telecom services and to provide more facilities in the country in urban and rural areas.

1. Laying of cables in ducts.
2. Upgradation of out-door plant by replacing the old and worn-out equipment.
3. Computerisation of fault repair and commercial services.
4. Replacement of electro-mechanical exchanges in a phased manner.
5. Replacement of long spans of drop-wires with underground cables.
6. Appraisal of quality of telephone services by an independent outside agency (M/s. IMRB).
7. Introduction of WLL technology.
8. Replacement of old batteries.
9. Arranging additional engine alternators/portable sets for areas where power supply is not reliable.
10. All exchanges in rural areas are likely be connected on reliable media by the year 2002.
11. Induction of new technology in the rural network.

(c) and (d) Provision of pagers to the field staff/line staff on experimental basis was first introduced in Indore Telephones which has brought a remarkable improvement in rectification of faults.

It has now been decided to provide pagers to field staff/line staff on experimental basis for six months in the following telecom circles/Districts:—

1. Assam
2. North-East
3. Madhya Pradesh

4. Maharashtra

5. Calcutta

6. Chennai

Annual Reports of Registered Companies

1751. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of registered companies have failed to file their annual reports, balance sheets and fulfil their other statutory obligations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; region-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to trace the missing companies; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The number of companies which have not filed their Annual Accounts for 1997-98 so far is given below region-wise:

Region	No. of Companies (both Private Limited and Public Limited)
Northern	73,269
Western	70,717
Eastern	34,518
Southern	63,497

(c) and (d) A Special Cell has been constituted in the Department of Company Affairs to take action against vanishing companies which had raised capital through public issues in coordination with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Regional Directors and Registrar of Companies have been directed to take steps in respect of companies which have received money through public issues and also to issue default notices to companies and their Managing Director, Whole-time Directors, Managers and Ordinary Directors which have not filed Annual Accounts and Annual Returns by due date.