

route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million {Budget announcement 2002-03}.

31. Indian companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institute or a Scientific Research Association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Telephone Subscribers in Manipur

895. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephone subscribers in Manipur as on date;
- (b) whether administrative headquarters including sub-divisions and Sub-Dy. Collector have been connected with telephones;
- (c) the applications in hand with subscription fees paid and unpaid, separately; and
- (d) the steps being taken or to be taken to meet the demands at (b) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN):

(a) There are a total of 35575 telephone subscribers in Manipur as on 30.6.2002.

(b) No, Sir. At present 32 Sub-Divisions out of 34 and 32 Tehsils out of 63 and 30 Block Headquarters out of 34 have been provided with telephone facility.

(c) There are a total of 5720 applications in hand with subscription fees paid (waiting list as on 30.6.2002). There is no application pending along with unpaid subscription fee.

(d) Switching capacity, external plant and transmission system are being augmented.

Introduction of contract system in telephone exchanges

†896. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce contract system in the telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action so far, in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN):

(a) No, Sir. There is no contract system in telephone exchanges. They are commissioned, operated and maintained by departmental staff. However, contract system has existed for the work of laying cable. This system has never been discontinued.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.