

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of new telephone exchanges to be opened in Arunachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan is as given below :—

Sl. No.	Year	New Exchanges opened/planned
1.	1997-98	3 (Opened)
2.	1998-99	13 (Opened)
3.	1999-2000	8 (Opened)
4.	2000-2001	7 (Planned)
5.	2001-2002	7 (Planned)

(b) and (c) 1. As regards post offices to be set up :

Post Offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new Post Offices depend upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance. The targets for next two years for State of Arunachal Pradesh are not finalised.

2. Steps being taken to open new telephone exchanges are as follows :—

- (i) Equipment for the telephone exchanges to be opened during 2000-2001 have been procured.
- (ii) Suitable transmission media for 2000-2001 is being planned and equipments are being procured.
- (iii) The infrasturcture is being made ready.

Speed post centres in Arunachal Pradesh

3832. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of speed post centres which have been set up so far in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of speed post centres in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are two State Speed Post Centres at Itanagar and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Termination of the licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom

3833. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact, that the Attorney General had recommended the termination of the licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom on 30th October, 1999 due to non-compliance with the migration package for Private Operators as decided by Government on 6th July, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this recommendation was accepted and implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Three licences of M/s. Koshika Telecom (Bihar, Orissa and U.P.-West Circles) were terminated on 22nd May, 1999, prior to the formulation of the Migration Package. Opinion of the Attorney General for India (AG) in the matter of treatment of these terminated Cellular Circle licences, in the context of the Migration Package, was received on 30th October, 1999. The AG recommended restoration of the terminated licences and offering of migration package on certain conditions contained in this opinion and a subsequent supplementary opinion further clarifying certain issues in this regard.

The Government accepted the advice of AG and a package for restoration of the three terminated cellular licences and simultaneous migration to NTP-99 regime have been offered to M/s. Koshika under letters dated the 17th April.