

- (b) if so, what are the details thereof;
- (c) how many villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone connection;
- (d) whether Government have drawn up any plan to provide telephone connections to all these villages in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with New Telecom Policy 1999 the Government has planned to provide telephone facility to all the villages in the country by March 2002 with the participation of Private Fixed Service Providers. However, attempts are being made to cover the villages by August 2000 for Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Punjab and by March 2001 for Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh subject to availability of equipment and contribution by Private Fixed Service Providers complementing the efforts of Government. In Kerala all villages have already been provided with telecom facility.

(c) to (e) In Madhya Pradesh, 25,028 villages are without telephone facility as on 1.4.2000. All the remaining villages are proposed to be provided with telecom facility by March, 2002 progressively with participation of Private Fixed Service Provider.

Modernisation of Telecom Services in Orissa

4608. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise the post offices and telecommunications services in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the funds earmarked for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the steps taken to modernise the Post and Telecommunication services in that State particularly in the rural, hilly and inaccessible areas?

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

- (b) Rs. 78 Lakhs have been spent for modernisation of Post

Offices during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in Orissa Circle. Rs. 20 Lakhs have been earmarked for 2000-2001 for the purpose. Rs. 565.84 crores have been spent for Telecommunication Services during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in Orissa Circle. Rs. 291.98 crores have been earmarked for 2000-2001 for the purpose.

(c) Funds for modernisation has been utilised mainly in bigger towns. However to improve facilities in rural post offices and give a modern look, better equipment and furniture have been provided to post offices in rural, hilly and inaccessible areas from 1997 at a cost of Rs. 17 Lakhs in Orissa Circle.

Expansion and modernisation programme have been drawn up for Orissa State also during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The details of proposal launched by the Government for Modernisation of the telecommunications services for Orissa State are given below:—

- (i) To provide telephone on demand by the year 2002.
- (ii) To provide telephone facility in all the villages by 2002.
- (iii) To provide STD facility to all the exchanges,
- (iv) To computerise Trunk services in the SSA Headquarters.
- (v) Use of Optical Fibre technologies extensively in the network.
- (vi) To replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with new tech. digital switches.
- (vii) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing villages telephones.
- (viii) To have reliable media for all exchanges by 2002.
- (ix) To provide Internet facility initially in all the Secondary Switching Area headquarters and then upto District Headquarters.
- (x) To provide modern telecom facilities such as Cellular Services, Intergrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Intelligent Network (IN) etc.
- (xi) Computerised billing and accounting in all the Divisions.
- (xii) To modernise fault repair service.

- (xiii) To computerise directory enquiry services in all the SSAs.
- (xiv) To give priority for telecom facility in: Sensitive border areas Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial Growth centres.

Replacement of out-dated Telephone instruments

4609. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to sanction telephone on demand;
- (b) if so, by which year it is possible to every part of the country;
- (c) whether Government have any proposal to replace all the old and out-dated telephone instruments; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The 9th Five Year Plan of the Department of Telecommunication envisage to provide telephone on demand by 31.3.2002' in every part of the country with the private sector complementing the efforts of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government propose to replace all the old and life expired telephone instruments in a phased manner progressively. Electronic Push Button Telephone Instruments are allotted every year for replacement of life expired telephone instruments. During 1999-2000 more than 5 lakh telephone instruments were allotted to various telecom circles for replacement.

Absence of telecom services in rural areas

4610. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the absence of telecom services in large number of rural areas in the country;
- (b) whether Government have identified these villages;
- (c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;