

transmitted through the VAST network between the stations connected to the network. It is pertinent to mention here that the Department has not increased the commission on money orders despite induction of high end technologies, the main reason being that the Department has been trying to modernise the service and reduce the cost of transmission.

Implementation of Internet Service providers policy

5361. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the committee report on resolution of subsisting problems in the telecom sector, implementation of ISP Policy and development of e-commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has restrained the internet service providers from buying bandwidth directly from FLAG;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) the total bandwidth capacity available with VSNL; and

(f) the demand from private ISPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government has received and accepted the First Interim Report of the Sub-group, regarding the extension of January 31, 2000 deadline for making payments of the balance amount of 65% of the licence fee under the migration package to March 15, 2000. This decision has been implemented.

The Second and third Interim Report of the Sub-group has been submitted to the Group on Telecom and II convergence. The Group is yet to give its recommendations on this report to the Government.

(c) and (d) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have represented to the Sub-group that they should be allowed to have direct access to FLAG submarine cable. The issue is governed by a commercial arrangement between VSNL and FLAG. A view will be taken on the basis of the recommendation of the Group.

(e) Total bandwidth capacity available with VSNL is 303.128 MB.

(f) Total demand of bandwidth capacity given to VSNL by private ISPs is 147.152 MB.