

21,557 telephone exchanges as on 1-4-2000 and 44.2 lakh telephones as on 1-3-2000 are also working in the rural areas in the country. New Telephone exchanges are being opened and capacity of existing exchanges is being extended as per the requirement to provide telephone connections.

Computerised Telephone Exchange in Assam

2635. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of computerised Trunk Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up in the State of Assam during the year 2000-2001, district-wise ;
- (b) the details of the above telephone exchanges which have been set up in the State during the last three years ; and
- (c) the details of telephone exchanges extended in Assam during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No Computerized Trunk Exchange is proposed to be set up in the State of Assam during the year 2000-2001.

(b) One Computerized Trunk Exchange was set up at Guwahati during the last three years.

(c) No Computerized Trunk Exchange was extended during the last three years. The details of telephone exchanges opened and extended during the last three years is given in the annexure. [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 67]

Cellular Service of MTNL, in Delhi and Mumbai

2636. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that MTNL proposes to start its CWN cellular service in Delhi and Mumbai ;
- (b) if so, by when it is likely to take off ; and
- (c) what are the main features of the service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL proposes to start its own GSM based cellular Mobile service in Delhi & Mumbai.

(b) It is likely to take off in the 3rd Quarter of this Year.

(c) This service will conform to GSM 2 + standards. It will support teleservices, bearer services & supplementary services. It will also have Voice Mail Service, Short Message Service and Short Message Service Cell broadcast. 'Intelligent Network Platform' in this service will support in services like Prepaid SIM, Personal Number, Virtual Private Network Service, Freephone Services, Premium Rate Services and Universal Access Number Services.

Laun-ching of Subsidized called Telephone Millennium for Internet

2637. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL proposes to launch 100% subsidized called "Telecom millennium" for internet and other value added services;

(b) whether the decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) by when it is proposed to be launched ?

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

(b) Yes, sir. The new subsidiary company called "Millennium Telecom Ltd." has been incorporated on 17-2-2000.

(c) It is proposed to be launched as soon as the Certificate of Commencement of Business is issued by the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai.

Internet Nodes

2638. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to meet its target of internet access nodes in all district head-quarters by January 26, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government so far and the achievements till date; and

(c) the details of the reasons for its failure to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The internet facility has been provided on local call basis at all the district headquarters before January 26, 2000 except Leh in Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Island which has also since been provided.

In first phase, Department of Telecom Services has planned one internet node each at all Secondary switching Areas (SSAs).