

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

(b) As per enclosed statement. (*See below*).

(c) (i) Twenty nine new Telephone exchanges have already been commissioned in NER up to January 31, 2000 during current financial year.

(ii) The equipment for balance of telephone exchanges have been procured.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 1999-2000	No. of new telephone exchanges already commissioned by Jan., 2000
1.	Assam	50	25
2.	Sikkim	7	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	0
4.	Manipur	7	0
5.	Mizoram	8	0
6.	Nagaland	6	1
7.	Tripura	7	1
8.	Meghalaya	7	0
TOTAL		98	29

Waiting List of Telephone Connections in Leh District

479. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an undue long list of applicants for new telephone connections in Leh district of Jammu and Kashmir;

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(b) the number of persons on waiting list for new telephone connections as on 1st January, 2000 in Leh district;

(c) the number of new telephone connections allotted during 1998-99; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken up by the Government to clear the waiting list and to improve the telecom service in Leh district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Leh district as on 01-01-2000 was 917.

(c) The number of telephone connections allotted during 1998-99 was 462.

(d) In order to wipe out the waiting list, the existing 2K exchange has been replaced by 4K exchange. The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by December, 2000 after external plant work is completed during this summer.

Irregular Waiving of Licence fee

480. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Migration Package offered to private telecome operators has come under fire by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as reported in the Hindustan Time of 5th February, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was an "irregular" waiver of Rs. 1,153 crore worth of Licence fees, which was a loss to the exchequer; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to recover its losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, a Draft Audit Para titled "package of concessions to existing Cellular and