

Interest on M.I. Scheme

2014. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal authorities have directed to pay interests of Rs. 96,000/- against a deposit of Rs. 1 lakh in M.I. Scheme;

(b) whether the said authority has directed to adjust interests already paid; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw such order to motivate depositors to deposit Rs. 1 lakh in M.I.S. instead of Rs. 96,000/-?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) Gazette Notification dated 29.4.1993 provide for only one deposit in the account of Rs. 6,000/- or multiples thereof not exceeding Rs. 2.04 lakhs in single account and Rs. 4.08 lakhs in joint account w.e.f., 1.6.1993. Earlier, the deposit were to the tune of Rs. 5,000/- or multiples thereof subject to the maximum limits in single and joint accounts as Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 4 lakhs respectively. However, investments made during the period from 1.6.1993 to 31.8.1993 in conformity with earlier provision were regularised by MOF by way of relaxation.

(b) As per amended provisions, interest was paid only on eligible accounts.

(c) The switch over (from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 6,000/-) has facilitated monthly interest calculation in round figures.

Provision of STD/ISD/PCO in public places in Assam

2015. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of STD/PCO/ISD booths in operation in Assam as on 30th November, 1999;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to provide adequate STD/ISD/PCO services in public places in Assam; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A total of 4931 STD/ISD/PCO booths are functioning in Assam as on 30.11.99.

(b) STD/ISD/PCOs are now allotted liberally to the educated unemployed persons on first come first served basis as per registration subject to technical feasibility. The war-widows/dependants, ST/SC, handicapped persons and ex-servicemen are given priority to the extent of 50% of the STD/ISD/PCOs to be allotted.

(c) Does not arise.

Waiting list of Telephone Connections

2016. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 112 given in Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1999 and state the number of telephone connections provided in each category during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The number of telephone connections provided during last three years is as per the given Statement. (See below)

The standing instructions for allotment of telephone connections are that OYT, special and general category are given in the ratio 60:10:30 respectively. However, if the waiting list in OYT category is less, the excess is utilized for clearing the waiting list in special and general categories, after reserving for an estimated one year requirement in OYT category.

Statement

The number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, State-wise

Sl. No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153606	216487	404980