

Name of licensee	Agra	Amount outstanding on 15.11.98 as (Rs. in Crs.)	No. of subscribers on 30.9.98
M/s Usha	Calcutta	0.54	24678
M/s Bharati	Delhi	12.87	99002
M/s Sterling	Delhi	9.78	95622
M/s BPL	Mumbai	13.22	87505
M/s H. Max	Mumbai	14.50	97262
M/s RPG	Chennai	1.76	15869
M/s Skycell	Chennai	1.84	18299
TOTAL		58.31	457342

Khagaria Telephone Exchange

542, SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new building having the telephone capacity for about 5000 lines has been built up by Government at Khagaria (Bihar);

(b) if so, when this building was completed and the amount involved;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no staff has been provided for shifting the telecom office from old premises to the new building so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the same is likely to be made functional and more telephone released in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The building alongwith environmental works is likely to be completed by December, 1998. Total expenditure involved is estimated to be Rs. 65,00,000'.

(c) No Sir, In fact, staff is available for shifting the Telecom Office from the old premises to the new Building. However,

the shift will take place after the installation of Telecom equipment is taken in hand.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The Telecom equipment will be made functional by March 1999 and Telephone connections released thereafter.

Shortage of Telecom Staff in NER

543. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether understaffing is an important cause of poor performance of the telecom sector in the North-Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, category-wise, shortage of manpower and steps taken to man the department with optimum strength; and

(c) the compelling reasons to run the department understaffed and measures initiated to overcome the situation by special recruitment drive or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, understaffing is not the cause. However, service is affected in some of the pockets due to difficult terrain and other related problems.