

enterprises and organisation of the Department of Telecom, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course of time. As far as Department of Post is concerned, the information is given in the statement.

Statement

Information regarding number of sanctioned and vacant posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/Assistants is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Sanctioned posts	Vacant posts
1.	Hindi Officer	22	07
2.	Hindi Translator	141	85
3.	Hindi Assistant	01	Nil

In different circles the position of vacant posts is different, but no circle is having any vacancy for more than two years.

(c) The general reasons for these vacancies are transfer to other Departments/Ministries, attaining the age of superannuation, resignation and promotion to higher grade. The S.S.C. has been requested from time to time to nominate suitable candidates for filling up the vacancies.

Mobile Phone Services in Metropolitan Cities

37. SHRI NANA DESMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL have introduced mobile phone service in Delhi and Mumbai recently on a limited scale;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when this service would be extended to other metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)

MTNL has introduced its mobile phone service based on GSM technology in Delhi on 7.2.2001. The services in Mumbai will be launched on March 2, 2001. Initially the service will be for one lakh subscribers each for Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) MTNL has requested for licence in other service areas. The time for the introduction of service can be fixed only after MTNL is able to obtain the Licence. BSNL is also planning to start the service in other Metropolitan cities during 2001-02.

Irregularities and Corruption in Postal Department in Madhubani Bihar

† 38. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of Parliament has demanded an inquiry from Vigilance Department against a Postal Inspector working in the Madhubani District of Bihar alleging irregularities and corruption in appointment; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and the steps taken after the said enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of that inquiries were held in the matter and certain procedural irregularities were established against the Inspector relating to appointment of ED Agents. Action under relevant rules has been initiated against the said functionary.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.