

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tuticorin	6.10	6.21	6.70	8.04	9.29	6.08
Cochin	13.26	7.98	7.62	8.63	11.49	7.38
New Mangalore	10.00	7.09	8.63	8.01	8.88	7.60
Mormugao	16.30	16.31	18.72	18.88	18.10	9.64
J.L. Nehru	5.90	3.01	3.39	5.01	6.87	5.28
Mumbai	26.80	29.02	30.74	32.05	34.05	21.38
Kandla	20.80	22.91	24.50	26.50	30.34	21.02
TOTAL	117.46	166.58	179.26	197.26	215.33	143.81

* Provisional

Modernisation of Telecom network in West Godavari District

2054. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Telecom has begun any modernisation of the telecom network in West Godavari District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outlay of funds earmarked for this purpose in 1996-97; and

(d) the amount spent for this so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) All the small exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges except at Puchikapudu where conversion work is under progress.

(ii) Out of 1054 villages in West Godavari District, 924 are already covered with telecom facility. 130 more villages are planned for provision of Village Panchayat Telephones by March, 1997. (iii) Out of 138 exchanges, 90 exchange are already provided with STD facility as on 30.10.96.

(iv) It is planned to install optical fibre cable network in addition to UHF systems to provide reliable transmission media.

(c)

	Cash Stores
	(Rs. in Crores)

The amount allocated is	19.51	6.4
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(d) The amount spent so far is	2.07	0.44
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Higher postal charges for Hindi newspapers and magazines

2055. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that postal charges on Hindi newspapers and magazines are three times higher to their actual prices in countries like Mauritius, Britain, Guyana, Trinidad, Fizi etc. where majority of population belonging to Indian origin speak Hindi language making the newspapers/magazines unaffordable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would consider bearing the postal charges on Hindi newspapers and magazines in the aforesaid countries thereby promoting Indian culture through Hindi language, and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Specific information is not available about postal charges on Hindi Newspapers and Magazines in countries like Mauritius, Britain, Guyana, Trinidad & Fizi, where these charges are fixed by the respective postal authorities in these countries.

(c) and (d) Postal charges in other countries contribute towards revenue generated in those countries for the respective administrations & the Department of Post, in India has no role in this matter.