

S. No.	Name
17.	UNITED TELECOMS LTD.
18.	UNITEL COMMUNICATIONS LTD.
19.	WEBEL COMMUNICATION INDUSTRIES LTD.
20.	ASSAM ELECTRONIC S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS LTD.
21.	DIGICOM SYSTEMS LTD.
22.	KLIPPON ELECTRONIC S PRIVATE LIMITED
23.	REDDY COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS LIMITED
24.	TEXTON TELECOM PVT. LTD.

Deterioration in Telecom Services in the North East

2661. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecommunication services in the North East are one of the worst in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inefficient Functioning of MTNL

2662. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign missions have expressed their unhappiness over the inefficient and arbitray functioning of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) whether any member of the diplomatic corps has lodged a formal protest to the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(c) what is the nature of the grievances and what corrective measures have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, on behalf of the Resident Deplomats in Delhi, has brought to the Ministry of External Affairs's notice the problems being encountered by them. The complaints mainly pertain to inflated Telephone bills which are disproportionate to the actual usage by the embassy or the Head of Mission concerned.

(c) These were generally complaints of excess billing which have been settled. A nodal officer has been appointed to deal with all works for foreign missions. All Missions have been informed accordingly. Senior officers of the MTNL are meeting individual Heads of the missions personally to redress their problems.

Modernisation of Telecom System in West Godavari

2663. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there was a proposal to use ultra modern fibre wiring for linking some telecom exchanges in West Godavery district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, details of exchanges which were to have modern wiring system;

(c) whether it is a fact that even rural areas in West Godavari with STD service are not getting optimum service; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to modernise the whole telecom system in West Godavari district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. As a

part of Madras-Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam-Calcutta long distance optical fibre link, some exchanges will have the facility.

(b) Eluru, Tadepalligudem and Kovur will be the telephone exchanges to be linked by the above scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No comments in view of (c) above.

D.O.T.'s Training Facilities to Employees of Private Sectors

2664. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom is working out a programme to allow training of private sector's employees at D.O.T.'s training facilities;

(b) if so, the details of such programmes;

(c) whether efficient running and efficient coordination between D.O.T. and private sector operators will result in lower service costs to the public; and

(d) what innovative measures Government propose to take to make best use of all facilities to reduce costs of phone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The private sector employees are eligible to avail training facilities at D.O.T.'s training centres on payment of prescribed fees subject to, however, availability of slots and individual's suitability to respective training course.

(c) and (d) National Telecom Policy, 1994 allows companies registered in India to participate in the expansion of the Telecommunication Network. The implementation of the said policy envisages to protect and promote the interests of the consumers and ensure fair competition. A competitive situation is expected to result into better services at lower costs.

Setting up of Autonomous Body

2665. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up of an independent, autonomous body with quasi-judicial powers to ensure fair competition and resolution of disputes amongst various operators of telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how does Government propose to install adequate machinery to ensure smooth running of telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

C.I.I. Programmes for Telecom Sector

2666. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has submitted 10 point programme for private sector participation in the expansion of telecom sector in the country;

(b) whether Government has examined the suggestion of CU in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Confederation of Indian Industry (CU) has submitted a paper wherein they have given their perception on implementation of the National Telecom Policy.

(b) and (c) Suggestions received from CU and other organisations will be taken into account while formulating entry guidelines for implementation of National Telecom. Policy.