

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action is being initiated to ensure achievement of target at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information, the Private Basic Telephone Service firms licensed in 1997-98 have provided 608 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) against a commitment to provide 97,806 VPTs in first three years of their licence agreement. Investment by private firms has primarily been made in the urban areas only.

(c) Private firms have consistently been persuaded and insisted upon to expedite provision of VPTs as per their voluntarily committed performance obligations. The Liquidated Damage (LD) charges have been recovered from them, as provided for in the licence agreement, for delay in fulfillment of the committed performance obligations in this respect. Further, they have also been asked to complete the unfulfilled committed roll out obligations by December, 2002 for which submission of additional Performance Bank Guarantees and Deed of Guarantees have been demanded.

Modernisation of telecommunication network in Orissa

457. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of telecommunication network in Orissa is lagging far behind the other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the specific plan formulated for modernisation of Telecommunication network in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the steps taken to modernise telecommunication network in the State; and

(e) the funds earmarked for Bhubaneswar circle ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Massive modernisation and expansion programmes were drawn up for the state during the Ninth Five year Plan is being implemented. Details are as follows :—

- (i) some important features of specific plan for modernisation of telecom network are given in Statement-I (*See below*) :
- (ii) Target and achievement of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs), Switching Capacity (Sw. Capacity) and Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The steps taken to modernize telecommunication network is given in Statement-III. (*See below*).

(e) Year-wise funds earmarked are given in Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Important features of plan for modernisation

- (i) To increase the Switching Capacity by 5 lakh lines.
- (ii) To provide 4 lakh Direct Exchange Lines.
- (iii) To provide telephones on demand.
- (iv) To provide telephone facilities to all the 46,989 villages.
- (v) To provide STD to all the exchanges.
- (vi) To have TAX exchanges in all SSA Headquarters.
- (vii) To replace life expired and technological obsolete switches with New Technology Digital switches.
- (viii) To have reliable media for all exchanges.
- (ix) Computerise Billing, accounting, Fault Repair Services and Directory Enquiry Services in all Secondary switching Areas.
- (x) To provide Single Window Customer Service Centres.
- (xi) To provide telecom facilities in tribal, hilly and industrial growth centres.
- (xii) 64K WLL system is targeted to install in the Circle.
- (xiii) 35K IMPCS mobile is targeted.

Statement-II

Targets and Achievements in Orissa circle during the Ninth Plan (1997—2002)

Year		Target	Achievement
1997-98	DEL (Lines)	35,000	61,178
	SW. Capacity (Lines)	44,000	50,354
	VPT (Nos.)	2,400	2,402
1989-99	DEL (Lines)	60,000	68,175
	SW. Capacity (Lines)	81,300	89,216
	VPT (Nos.)	2,400	2,242
1999-2000	DEL (Nos.)	87,000	89,036
	SW. Capacity (Lines)	1,16,000	1,33,240
	VPT (Nos.)	3,000	2,102
2000-01	DEL (Lines)	1,00,000	1,03,107
	SW. Capacity (Lines)	1,16,400	1,31,950
	VPT (Nos.)	14,000	2,030
2001-02	DEL (Lines)	1,35,000 (Upto Oct. 2001)	43,284.
	SW. Capacity (Lines)	2,21,300 (Upto Oct. 2001)	41,104
	VPT (Nos.)	22,024 (Upto Oct. 2001)	650
Total during	DEL (Lines)	4,17,000 (Upto Oct. 2001)	364780
Ninth Plan	SW.Capacity (Lines)	578700 (Upto Oct. 2001)	445864
	VPT (Nos.)	43824 (Upto Oct. 2001)	9426

Statement-III

Steps taken to modernize telecommunication network

- (i) New Technology digital switches are inducted in network both for local switching and trunk switching.
- (ii) Extensive OFC laying is done for reliable media and to provide better internet access from remote localities.
- (iii) WLL system is inducted both for Urban and Rural network covering the entire State to provide telephones to remote and inaccessible areas.

- (iv) IMPCS have been planned in the State covering important towns and National Highways.
- (v) SDH ring will be provided to stabilize and also increase greatly the transmission network.
- (vi) HDSL, DLC equipments are to be provided in the external plants. this will also help to provide high speed data services like Internet and ISDN etc.
- (vii) Internet nodes are installed in each SSA Headquarters.
- (viii) All block Headquarters will be having Internal facility by March, 2002.
- (ix) Interactive Voice Response system is being installed in Telecom Districts headed by General Managers.
- (x) Intelligent Network (IN) service is provided (in Two SSAs).
- (xi) New Tech DigitalTAXs are being commissioned at all SSA Headquarters.
- (xii) 2nd level-I TAX is planned at Cuttack.
- (xiii) More and more Remote Line Units (RLUs) are planned for easy and centralized maintenances.
- (xiv) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) 22,024 Nos. of villages will be provided with Telecom facility during 2001-02.

Statement-IV

Year-wise funds earmarked

Year	Amount in crores
1997-98	155.46
1998-99	167.70
1999-2000	224.12
2000-2001	287.55*
2001-2002 Revised Estimate)	481.41

*Provisional (A/cs not yet closed)