

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Telephone lines on which Internet connections work are more in use for Internet traffic *vis-a-vis* the speech traffic.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is expected that as Internet connections increase, the traffic on the corresponding phone lines will increase.

(c) and (d) Incentives presently being extended for promoting use of Internet are:

- (i) Government is providing access to the nearest Internet Node on local call basis in all the District Headquarters of the country except Kargil and Poonch in J&K State.
- (ii) 20% concessions on rental for leased lines used for Internet access is being given by Government at present.
- (iii) Recognised Educational Institute/Government organisations/ Newspapers and News Agencies are presently being given 50% concession on port charges by Government. 100% Export Oriented Units (having annual export turn over above US \$ 1,00,000). Software exporters are also getting 20% concession on annual port charges.

It is proposed to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March 2001.

Development of Communication and Information Technology Network

1746. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to support for providing basic infrastructure for developing communications and Information Technology network in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for improvement and development of Communications network in the State.

All possible support is being extended by way of additional allotment of

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RAJYA SABHA

equipment, upgradation of the existing network for improvement in services and active participation in the integrated services network.

Opening of STD services for private companies

† 1747. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opened the STD services for the private companies;

(b) if so, the impact on the financial position of Government companies of the same; and

(c) whether Government have given a consideration on the implication with regard to the internal security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to open the STD Service (long distance service) for private companies.

(b) There is no Government company/companies providing the service and hence the question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Telephones in villages of Madhya Pradesh

1748. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly thirty thousand villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, district-wise and

(c) by when telephone facilities are likely to be provided in these villages of the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 25,109 Villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities as on 1.4.2000. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.