

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

telephone divisions of the State and the number of exchanges connected with OFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 71,065 villages out of 115,249 villages in Uttar Pradesh State have been provided with telecom facility till 31.07.2000. Only 44,184 villages are devoid of telephone facility;

(a) All the villages in the country, including those in Uttar Pradesh are planned to be provided with telecom facility by March, 2002 progressively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Provision of internet facility in the village

3139. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme to provide internet facilities to all the villages in the country;

(b) if so, how many villages are connected so far; and

(c) by when the whole country will be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no such proposal at present for the villages. However, there is a proposal to provide Internet facility in all the block headquarters within this financial year.

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

Computerisation of post offices

† 3140. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up the fully computerised post offices in the States capital headquarters and the district headquarters;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of such post offices and their locations;
- (a) whether any time bound programme has been prepared to set up such post offices in the entire country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when this programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) The Department from the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan had undertaken a programme of computerisation and modernisation of Post Offices keeping in view the needs of its customers. There are 25,956 Departmental post offices of which the department proposes to computerise 14,000. There are post offices manned by two or more postal officials and the computerisation of these offices is planned to be done in a phased manner through the Five Year Plans subject to the availability of funds. So far 1,506 post offices are having computers. Introduction of computers in post offices involved the use of computer base Multipurpose Counter Machines (MPCMs). These machines are used for booking of various postal articles at a single window. During the Eighth Five Year Plan 2,660 such machines were installed. During the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan 3,597 machines have been installed. Another 2,000 machines are proposed to be installed in the remaining two years of the Ninth Plan. A total of 6,257 such machines have been installed since the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan. [Details of installation are given in the statement enclosed (*see* below)].

The Department has made a comprehensive plan for total computerisation of Head Post Offices located in State capitals and district headquarters. In this plan all front and back end operations are linked together in a Local Area Network in the post office using computers and a central server. An integrated software 'Meghdoot 98' allows all operations to be carried out on computers in post offices.

Since 1998-99, 200 post offices have been fully computerised in

LAN environment and another 200 post offices are to be computerised in the next two years. In this phase, Head Post offices particularly those in district headquarters will be covered for total computerisation.

Computerisation of the remaining post offices would depend on the availability of funds.

Statement

State-wise installation of computer based multipurpose counter machines (including SB LAN) : Technology Division

Sl. No	Circle	Eighth Plan		Ninth Plan		Total
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		
1.	Assam	50	89	118	73	330
2.	Andhra Pradesh	206	30	31	96	363
3.	Bihar	110	18	53	64	245
4.	Delhi	203	82	155	37	477
5.	Gujarat	172	85	65	104	426
6.	Haryana	99	35	49	52	235
7.	Himachal Pradesh	98	45	40	45	228
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	36	22	10	24	92
9.	Karnataka	227	—	101	115	443
10.	Kerala	161	30	97	52	340
11.	Madhya Pradesh	252	122	34	69	477
12.	Maharashtra	123	95	135	109	462
13.	North East	38	21	10	72	141
14.	Orissa	91	30	69	32	222
15.	Punjab	140	58	90	53	341
16.	Rajasthan	105	75	53	0	233
17.	Tamil Nadu	226	33	91	83	433
18.	Uttar Pradesh	201	3	126	74	404
19.	West Bengal	122	45	102	96	365
GRAND TOTAL:		2660	918	1429	1250	6257