

[22 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

**Statement**

*Provision of Village Public telephones  
(VPTs) by Private Licensees*

Sl. No.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs provided* by 31-10-2003
1.	M/s. Tata Teleservices Limited (Andhra Pradesh)	9635	1408
2.	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. (Madhya Pradesh)	16500	611
3.	M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd. (Rajasthan)	31834 (36727)**	3010
4.	M/s. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. (Maharashtra)	25760	2643
5.	M/s. HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	5442	879
6.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd. (Gujarat)	8635	4114
TOTAL		97806	12665

\* As reported by the licensees. \*\* The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service Area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

**STD/ISD/PCO in Assam**

929. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs running in various districts of Assam at present;

(b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during the current year;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose and the amount released, so far;

(d) whether the waiting list for PCOs is on the increase; and

(e) if so, by when, the waiting list would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) Sir, as on 30.6.2004, a total number of 18045 STD/ISD/PCOs and 343 Local PCOs are running in various districts of Assam.

(b) According to the present policy, PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis. The number of booths to be installed in the current year depends on the availability of applicants.

(c) No separate amount is earmarked for this purpose. The expenditure on PCO lines from part of the project for direct exchange lines.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

#### **Budget allocation for communication facilities to Assam**

930. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation for Assam for the achievement of communication facilities during the last three years has been very low in comparison to other states;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The allocation has been commensurate with the targets, as indicated below:—

2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
Percentage of Assam's Target to the Total Target	Percentage of Assam's Budget Allocation to Total Allocation	Percentage of Assam's Target to the Total Target	Percentage of Assam's Budget Allocation to Total Allocation	Percentage of Assam's Target to the Total Target	Percentage of Assam's Budget Allocation to Total Allocation
1.46	1.72	1.34	1.32	<b>1.37</b>	1.77

The State-wise details of targets assigned in budget are given in the Statement.