

- (g) Customised surveys for various organisations and collection of data by Postmen.
- (h) Western Union Money transfer for transmitting money from other countries to India.
- (i) Electronic Fund Transfer and Warrant Payment services to ICICI, UTI and Citi Banks.
- 0) Retailing of Non life Insurance policies in select circles in collaboration with Oriental Insurance Company Limited.
- (k) Sale of Mutual fund Schemes of IDBI Principal, State Bank of India, Prudential ICICI.
- (I) Marketing of RBI Government Relief Bonds, ICICI Sefety Bonds, IDBI Flexi Bonds and ICICI Prudential Pension products.

India's investment in communication sector abroad

455. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plan to invest in foreign countries in the communication sector;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed or consultation is in progress with the foreign countries in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the communication projects of Indian-origin companies in the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government is not planning to invest in the foreign countries, however, PSUs under the administrative control of Department of Telecommunications do invest outside India as a part of their ongoing business activities. The details of the investment alongwith the planned investment by the PSUs in the foreign countries are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Details of the investments by the PSUs in the foreign countries*

Sl. NO.	Name of PSUs	Investment Particulars		Remarks
		Name of the Country	Investment	
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	Sri Lanka	Project estimated cost is Rs. 70 crores to be shared equally between BSNL and Sri Lanka Telecom	BSNL and Sri Lanka Telecom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13.08.2004 to carry out feasibility study for laying of submarine cable between India and Sri Lanka for carrying international traffic. The decision for investment will be taken only after completion of feasibility study.
2.	Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)	Nepal	Rs.23.34 crores (approx.)	M/s United Telecom Limited, Nepal, a Joint Venture Company of MTNL TCIL & VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited) along-with NVPL (a local company of Nepal) has started telephone services in Nepal.
		Mauritius	Rs.6.4 crores (approx.)	M/s Mahanagar Telephone (Mauritius) Limited a wholly owned subsidiary of MTNL has a license to provide Basic, Mobile & International Long Distance (ILD) services in Mauritius.
		Rwanda		Exploring the possibility of acquiring controlling stake in Rwanda Telecom for providing Basic & Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services in Rwanda.
3.	Telecommunications Consultants of India Ltd. (TCIL)	Nigeria	Rs.3.75 lacs	1981: Telecommunications Consultants Nigeria Ltd. Set up in Nigeria for bidding for and taking up local orders.
		Netherlands	Rs.11.08 lacs	1991: Orange Telecommunication Services set up in Netherlands for providing IT services in Europe, in which Rs.11.08 lacs was invested by TCIL. Due to foreign JV partners' inability to continue, the company has been liquidated in 2002.

Sl. No.	Name of PSUs		Investment Particulars		Remarks
	Name of Country		Investment the		
		Saudi Arabia	Rs.66.84 lacs		1993: TCIL Saudi Co. Ltd. Set up in Saudi Arabia for bidding for and taking up local orders.
		Nepal (approx.)	Rs.23.35 crores		2001: United Telecom Ltd. Set up in Nepal for operating Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) based basic telecom service in the Kingdom of Nepal.

Ban on outdoor use of products

*466. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ban exists as of today, on outdoor use of products (based on international standard IEEE 802.11b) for wireless networking and transfer of data between computers;

(b) if so, whether Government consider any merit in continuing such ban; and

(c) if not, by when, Government plan to lift the ban?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The outdoor use of products based on international standard IEEE 802.11b for wireless networking and transfer of data between computers, is permitted under a licence.

Implementation of schemes for reviving projects

457. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of major projects, above Rs.100 crores, which in terms of the value of investment add up to about Rs.50,000 crores, have been either stalled or deferred indefinitely in various States;