Sl.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Effective Date of Licence	Committed targets *for VPTs in firstthree years (as per obligations under Licence Agreement)			Total No. of committed VPTs in Ist 3 years	No. of VPTs actually provided till 24.11.2K
			I Year	II Year	III Year		
3	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442 (all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)			5442	Nil
4	M/s Hughes Telecom (India) (Maharashtra)	30.9.1997	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 (by 30.9.1999)	No village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99	25760	Nil
5	M/s Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pradesh)	30.9.1997	5500 (by 30.9.1998	5500 (by 30.9.99	5500 (by 30.9.2000	16500	315
6	M/s Shyam Telelink (Rajasthan)	04.3.1998 04.03.1999)	7439 (by	10629 (by 4.3.2000)	13766 (by 4.3.2001)	31834 [36727]**	55
	TOTAL		40651	37889	19266	97806	370

* Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

* * The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

Measures to overcome water crisis in States

†*235. SHRI RAJ MAHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that possibilities of further deepening of water crisis in several States of the country have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of such States;

(c) whether Government have prepared any action plan to provide rapid solution to this crisis; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (d) The average annual per capita water availability is estimated to be about 1869 cu.m. in 2000 AD at national level. The per capital availability is likely to decline to about 1342 Cu.m by 2025 AD due to increase in population.

Availability of water in rivers is assessed River basin-wise. A per the criteria adopted by some international agencies, any situation of water availability of less than 1000 Cubic meters per capita per year is considered as a scarcity condition. According to this criterion, the scarcity situations already exists in eight of the river basins namely: Pennar, East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari, Cauvery, West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni, Sabarmati, Tapi, Mahi and East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Godavari. A part of Maharashtra state which falls in the Tapi Basin is also therefore facing water scarcity.

Accordingly to India Meteorological Department, the rainfall in the country during this year's monsoon has been 8% lower than the long-term average for the country as a whole. National Disaster Management (NDM) Division of the Ministry of Agriculture has mentioned that due to the deficient rains of the South-West monsoon, the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan are experiencing the drought-like conditions which may intensify in the summer months of the year 2001.

With a view to provide solution to the likely crisis, the Government has taken various short term and long- term measures, which include the following:

(1) Central Water Commission and Ministry of Water Resources have advised the State Governments to regulate the releases from the reservoirs keeping in view the possible water deficit and making curtailment for irrigation in consultation with the State Agriculture Departments.

(2) For promotion of Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programmes, Artificial recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the Sector reform project of Accelarated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

(3) The exploratory tube wells drilled by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) are also transferred to the States for drinking water supply.

(4) For regulation and control of ground water the Central Ground Water Board has been constituted as an Authority under section 3 (3) of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(5) To ensure regulation of ground water in a scientific manner, the Government of India had prepared a Model Bill in 1970, subsequently revised in 1992 and circulated to the States for enacting legislation.

(6) National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages inter-linking between various Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

(7) The Government has taken up Water Resources Consolidation Projects with the assistance of World Bank to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country and early completion of on going schemes.

(8) Union Government has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance to the State Governments for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion or mega projects which are beyond their resources capability.

Seismic survey for identifying locations of oil

*236. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 197 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2000 and state:

(a) whether any seismic survey to identify locations of oil have been conducted and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any blocks have been identifed with good crude contents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Exploration of hydrocarbons is an on-going process consisting of seismic data acquistion, processing, interpretation, prospect identification and drilling. Exploration process begins with geological and geophysical surveys. The areas thus identified are assessed for likely hydrocarbon potential through various methods of resource appraisal; favourable results lead to the next state of exploration during which targets are decided and prospects identified. Each prospect thus demarcated is evaluated techo-economically and the desirability or otherwise of drilling is spelt out and priority accorded.