

Repeat fault rate has also been reduced to 2.76% in 2002-2003 after rehabilitation of External Plant in a big way and shifts of Distribution Points from pole to wall type.

G. Rent Rebate

Automatic rent rebate is allowed in case where the telephone remains faulty for more than 7 days.

H. Telephone Directory

Latest updated directory is available on Compact Disc (CD) and it can also be accessed through Internet.

Collaboration by MIT Media Lab

1929. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab has pulled out of collaboration in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agreement for entering into the collaboration;

(d) the details of projects established in the country by this arrangement;

(e) the total expenditure incurred by Government and other parties separately; and

(f) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No. Sir.

(b) The collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and Media Lab Asia was not continued beyond March 31, 2003.

(c) MIT USA and Media Lab Asia entered into a Research and Collaboration Agreement (RCA) in September 2001 for the duration of the initial exploratory programme of Media Lab Asia. As per the RCA,

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RAJYA SABHA

the collaboration with MIT envisaged active and visible technical support to: (i) make available to the Company the technical knowledge, experience, skill, know-how and processes of MIT's Media Lab to the extent relevant to the Media Lab Asia Programme; and (ii) assist in the development of a technical plan for the Company's research and educational programs.

(d) Media Lab has identified the following key research initiatives:

- Bits for all: to provide low cost, high bandwidth wireless connectivity.
- World Computer: to develop affordable computing and communication access devices.
- Tomorrow's Tools: to develop sensors and interfaces for rural applications.

Research laboratories at five IITs, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai and Kharagpur have taken up several projects in these thrust areas. Pilot deployment has been carried out for some of the projects. Notable among these are: deployment of Multi hop wireless network to provide rural connectivity, development of innovative vehicle mounted access points to wireless network, Linux based geographical information system for hand held computers and research on low cost testing tools for deployment in the rural environment.

(e) Government of India has released Rs. 65 crore as Grant-in-Aid to Media Lab Asia. There was no expenditure by other parties.

(f) The projects mentioned at (d) above are at different stages of implementation.

Monsoon Hangama offer of a Private Operator

1930. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has complained to DoT on the fraudulent intentions of Monsoon Hangama Offer of a Private operator to deceive the subscriber with misleading features of the scheme;