

Sl. No.	Item	P.O. Date	Value	Quantity	Supplier	Procured From
2. FOR DELHI						
1.	Mobile	27.03.03	15 Crore	30K	XL Telecom Ltd.	USA
2.	Fixed	08.02.03	5.32 Crore	3750 Nos.	LG Elec. Sys. India Ltd.	South Korea
3.	Fixed	18.02.02	1.77 Crore	1250 Nos.	M/s ITI	South Korea
4.	Mobile & Fixed	04.07.02	81.18 Crore	45000 Nos. (30,000 Mobile + 15,000 Fixed)	M/s HEIL- M/s HFCL JV	South Korea

WLL Technology in the country

2567. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated strategy to introduce WLL Technology in rural and semi-urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have initiated any action against the basic telephone operators for not fulfilling their commitments in providing service in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Licences granted are technology neutral. There is no restriction on any of the service providers to use the specific technology in rural, semi-urban or urban areas of the country.

(d) to (f) Private basic operators who were granted licence in 1997-98 have not fulfilled their roll out obligations for rural telephony.

Liquidated Damage Charges to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores have been recovered from six Private Basic Telephone Service operators for delay in commencement of service as well as delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines. A notice was issued in May, 2003 to private basic operators to provide VPTs as well as submit plans to provide balance VPTs by the end of 2003 after excluding the categories of villages identified as de-populated villages, villages with population less than 100, Naxalite or insurgency affected villages are to be covered by satellite media in the first phase, failing which steps for encashment of the Performance Bank Guarantee will be initiated. Five basic operators have responded to the notice and submitted plans to cover 5749 villages in four service areas by December, 2003 to March, 2004. This excludes 2709 villages which have phones but not a public phone. One service area *i.e.* Punjab had already been fully covered with VPTs. One basic operator has approached the court and obtained stay against the issued notice. Further, the issuance of notice has resulted in increase, as per available information, in the number of VPTs installed by private operators from 10,648 at the end of May, 2003 to 11,632 at the end of June, 2003 *i.e.* approximately 10% increase. The fulfilment of the commitments now given by the private operators will be closely monitored and Performance Bank Guarantee would be liable to be encashed in case of failure.

Technology for telephone facilities in rural areas

†2568. SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

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

(a) whether Government have identified the technology for setting up of telephone facilities in rural areas keeping in view the geographical and social conditions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof so that the operation of telephone facilities could be made smooth and cost effective; and

(c) the various kinds of technologies utilised for setting up of telephone facilities in the rural areas of the country, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have already identified and inducted Wireless

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.