

Sl. No.	Exchange Name	Total Waiting List	Waiting List cleared upto
148	Tikroo	64	25.02.2001
149	Trej	4	28.03.2002
150	Triphalghat	0	—
151	Tullah	18	16.05.2002
152	Urla	30	25.01.2001
TOTAL :		4247	

Feasibility report on VPT

1679. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has been assigned the task of detailed feasibility report on achieving the Village Public Telephone (VPT) targets;

(b) whether the report has since been received;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations and suggestions made therein; and

(d) if not, by when the report is expected to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. BSNL is engaged in provision of its share of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) only.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Foreign currency exchange facility in post offices

1680. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start foreign currency exchange facility in some selected post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step would help check illegal trade of foreign currency; and

(d) by when the said proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The proposal to start Foreign Currency Exchange Facility from post offices is at a preliminary stage and no details have been finalized. The final decision in this regard would be taken by Government of India after proper evaluation of operational and commercial parameters. Such a scheme, if introduced, would increase the number of legitimate outlets available to the customers for buying and selling foreign exchange.

Storage of foodgrains by private contractors

1681. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being stored with private contractors as FCI godowns were overflowing; and

(b) the reasons for which the excess food stocks are not being distributed to the States as part of the Food for Work Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Private godowns are hired by FCI on a small scale, depending upon the storage capacity available with the FCI and the trends of procurement and off-take in the procuring/consuming States. Hiring/dehiring of godowns is reviewed in this context from time to time.

(b) The Government has been making allotment of foodgrains under Food for Work Programme with effect from January, 2001 in favour of the flood/draught affected States. During the year 2002-03, the Food for Work Programme has been merged with Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) as a Special Component.

During the year 2002-03 (upto 29.11.2002), the Government has allotted a total of 10.82 lakh tonnes of wheat and 27.47 lakh tonnes of rice to the States under Special component of Sampooran Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) against which 2.37 lakh tonnes of wheat and 22.37 lakh tonnes of rice has been lifted.