

[7 March, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether Government are monitoring the fastest growing telecom markets in the world to be in the league with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Although the traffic has increased by about 25 percent after the reduction in STD rates, there has been a decrease by about 20 percent in the long distance metered call units as per sample study conducted in the month of February, 2002. The long distance metered call units are expected to increase in the coming months with the change in the subscribers calling habits. It is too early to assess the effects of reduction in rates of STD on the revenue in the telecom sector.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The telecom sector has been opened up for private sector participation to bring competition in this sector. This will result into better quality service at competitive rates as well as faster growth in the telecom sector.

#### **New post offices in Arunachal Pradesh**

776. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Arunachal Pradesh where new post offices are proposed to be opened during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, by when all the villages are likely to be provided with post offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There was a proposal to open new post office at Yupia in Papumpara District of Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2001-2002 and a Branch post office has been opened there.

(b) All the villages in the State are provided with postal facilities as far as daily delivery of mails and sale of stamps and stationary is concerned. However, the opening of new post offices is subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of required resources.