

[27 February, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Under the Telecom, Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been established to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of service providers as well as consumers of the telecom sector so as to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Further, TRAI prescribes rates for telecommunication services including different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunication services while ensuring transparency in exercising its powers.

(c) No row has been reported between VSNL and private cellular operators.

**E-commerce and E-governance
programmes**

935. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to speed up e-commerce and e-governance programmes in its Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the licences issued by Controller of certifying Authority for certifying digital signatures;

(d) the reasons for slow progress in use of the digital signature: and

(e) the measures to be adopted to increase the technology in future?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Controller of Certifying Authority (CCA) has issued three licences to Certifying Authorities (CA) for issuing Digital Signature Certificates. The licensed CAs are Safecrypt Ltd., Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and Tata Consultancy Services.

(d) and (e) IT culture in India is in its infancy, Conventional methodologies for governance, commerce and trade related transactions do not depend on e-governance and e-commerce. Applications of e-governance and e-commerce continue to be viewed as alternatives instead of substitutes for the conventional methodologies. Consequently the progress in the usage of digital signature in the country is slow. Further, forces measures like legislation, technological advancements (imported or indigenous), Government subsidies etc. have not resulted into increase in acceptance of new technology (e-governance and e-commerce) by masses.

Telephone exchanges in NER

936. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the existing telephone exchanges network in the North Eastern Region particularly in Assam during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the places in NER where new buildings for the telephone exchanges have been constructed during the last three years and those proposed to be constructed during the year 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the Statement I and II.