

claims success in all the international fora, I do not know whether he should pat himself on the back and consider that this failure on the part of Pakistan is only because of the quality of our endeavour. I would also like to know from him whether it is not due to a sense of fatigue, in fact, in international responses to Pakistan's consistent endeavour to raise the same issue again and again.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the last part of the question involve 'opinion'?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: It is not true that we have not raised the question of terrorism. We are always bringing to the notice of the international community at all levels, about what Pakistan is doing in Kashmir. They are sponsoring terrorism and this fact is now known all over the world.

With regard to the hon. Member's question as to why OIC was not mentioned, I would say that the position is the same. When I say that they did it in the international fora, Pakistan raised this question there also. They formed a Committee to take this up in the United Nations General Assembly. But as you see, even in the OIC countries, they were not able to muster necessary strength to bring forward that Resolution. Since that Resolution has not been brought forward, I thought that I may not necessarily mention it in the reply. Their effort even at OIC has failed.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the answer was incomplete.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not asked him to answer on 'opinion'.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I asked, "Is it an omission that OIC was not mentioned?" Has the Minister admitted it? He should have included it.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I have replied to his question. I said that even at OIC, they did raise this question, but they miserably failed.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have first-hand information of Government's success in handling this issue at the ongoing Session of the United Nations General Assembly. While I compliment the Government for its success in thwarting Pakistan's reckless endeavour to internationalise the Kashmir issue, I have a feeling that the very fact that Pakistan has shown its propensity to raise this issue at every conceivable fora including the one on Population and Development, on Women, on Social and Economic Development, in a way, our manoeuvrability and our role in the international arena has been reduced and our vulnerability seems to have increased.

We are good members of the United Nations. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to have a discussion with the leaders of the Opposition to go to the people of the country to point out that we really could not care less if a resolution like this were to be brought by Pakistan, because of the simple fact that a resolution is coming, we have been sought to be brought at par with Pakistan. I would like to know what role we are playing in that regard.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Well, we are constantly in touch

with our leaders of the Opposition so much so that Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the leader in Geneva. All this foreign policy is based on the consensus of the House. This is what we are doing.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that he had admitted during the last session that an American private agency had been engaged to put forth our side. So, the success achieved by us should be attributed to our own diplomatic efforts or the performance of the private agency engaged by us and what has been its contribution in it. Are you still availing its services?

Part 'b' of my question is that we have always been defensive in our replies whenever Pakistan raises this issue. Sir, a resolution had been moved by you and got unanimously passed as to the only problem in Kashmir is how to annex the 1/3 part of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan. What steps are being taken by us to annex that part?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am disallowing the second part.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, also that we took numerous measures to inform the World about this. You have mentioned one out of them, that is about availing the services of an agency which was engaged by us. Our Minister of External Affairs wrote letters to the Foreign Ministers of all the countries informing them of the latest actual situation in Kashmir. Our foreign Missions are also briefing the respective Governments about the actual position and they put forth our stance.

Thirdly, we have our Permanent Representatives in United Nations and they are also briefing the other Governments about our stance on this issue. Similarly, this agency is also required to enlighten the Senators on it. That is why Pakistan has not been able to muster support for its resolution.

[English]

National Telecom Policy

*64. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joshi Committee set up in May, 1994 by the Department of Telecommunications to frame guidelines for implementation of the National Telecom Policy has recently submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether some experts in the telecommunications

field have recently expressed their apprehensions about certain recommendations of the Committee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government which will be finalised shortly.

(e) and (f) This Ministry has not received any communication in writing from experts expressing apprehension regarding any recommendations of the Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part 'b' of my question related to the main recommendations of the Joshi Committee which had been formed in May, 1994 to frame guidelines for implementation of the National Telecom Policy...

MR. SPEAKER: He has just said that it is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: But he did not tell...

MR. SPEAKER: He will not tell that until their consideration is over

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: I wanted that...

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so. It is told after considering it thoroughly.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newly formed Telecom Policy is in favour of its privatisation and it is proposed to be run through multinationals. The hon. Minister was on a foreign tour recently and he has also given such statements after returning from that foreign tour. The Department of Telecommunications is incurring heavy losses due to certain irregularities being committed in the Department and especially due to a large number of overseas calls made from here. What action is proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister in this regard?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has just said that telecom policy is being privatised. This august House is aware that our density is even less than one percent whereas Pakistan, China, and other developing countries have for more density. We have not been able to progress for want of funds and technology. The hon. Members are also always complaining about telephone services. That is why the private sector has been included in the telecom policy. It has been envisaged in the telecom policy that by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, i.e. 1997 we would liquidate the whole waiting list and provide telephone facilities in villages. It required an amount of Rs. 23,000 crore. We do not have enough resources to mobilise such a big amount. That is why it was required to include the private sector. The foreign investment is also imminent. So far as the making of overseas calls is concerned, I have also come to know of it. We have taken some steps for it. We are taking action through vigilance since it is spread over

a vast area. So, we are deciding on the appropriate technology.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the far-flung areas of our country would be provided with the proper telecommunications during the next one year with the help of this Telecom Policy?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are making efforts and we have fixed a target also that by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan all the villages of the country would be provided with the telephone facility. But for that funds are required. That is why the Private Sector is being invited. The programme would be completed only after deciding all points.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Telecom Policy, it is estimated that by the end of the Eighth Plan, 10 million lines are to be given. As things stand today, the total waiting list by the end of the Eighth Plan is likely to be only 7.5 million which will reduce the resource crunch to the extent of Rs. 11,000 crore. Already, you are able to mop up nearly Rs. 7,000 crores through leasing finance

Keeping all these aspects in view, instead of allowing the MNCs, will the Government take necessary steps to strengthen the DOT and the Indian companies which have been set up with technology from C-Dot and also evolve plans for restructuring the DOT? Instead of keeping it as a single monolithic organisation, will the Government take steps to split it into corporations to improve the quality of basic services?

SHRI SUKHRAM: Telecommunications is a highly technological and capital intensive subject. In order to achieve the objective of 7.5 million lines, which is the target in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we need Rs. 40,555 crore. Against this amount, our internal resource generation is hardly Rs. 33,733 crore. There is a shortfall of around Rs. 8,000 crore, and we need Rs. 4,000 crore for connectivity to the villages alone to ensure that all the villages are given this facility by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Then, in order to ensure liquidation of the entire waiting list, we need additional 2.5 million lines which will require around eleven to twelve thousand crores of rupees. So, the total requirement is around Rs. 23,000 crore. Now, the hon. Member can well imagine whether this entire amount can be raised within the country. This is the first aspect. Secondly, we are not getting any budgetary support from the Government.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: You can issue shares to the public.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I am coming to that. We are now trying to raise funds on leasing basis for purchase of equipment. We invited tenders a few months ago and we received very enthusiastic response and we could get about Rs. seven hundred crore of fee. This is a new experiment and we wanted the expert opinion on this issue. We have already got that also. All these consumed some time and we are already late for this year. The benefits may go to the next year. Even then, it is not

possible to provide connectivity to the entire country with this amount. So, there has to be capital flow from abroad and there has to be technology flow from abroad. Without these two things, you cannot succeed in providing the telecom facilities to the people of this country.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: There is a dispute about the estimate of the requirement of tele-communications for the next two years. The employees themselves have contradicted it and the actual requirement of money is much less. Apart from this, if private people enter the field of basic telephone services, the security of our country will also be at stake. So, this Telecom Policy itself will have to be discussed in Parliament. Since all these aspects cannot be covered through just one question in the Question Hour, will the Government be prepared to have a detailed discussion on this Telecom Policy in Parliament? A detailed discussion is all the more important because we are aware of the espionage activities in the ISRO. And there are other things too because of which, the security of our country itself is in peril. So, we should have a proper discussion on the Telecom Policy in Parliament. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must allow some time for a discussion on this vital subject.

MR. SPEAKER: And you must give me time for that!

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: The Minister should be prepared for a discussion. He promised this to us in the meeting of the Consultative Committee also.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Yes Madam, I still stand by that promise. I would like to submit here that while formulating the National Telecom Policy, the aspect of national security has been taken into consideration. That is our priority number one. I am prepared for a discussion. When I placed this document on the Table of House, I did make this point. The hon. Member has every right and we can

have a discussion, of course, with the approval of the hon. Speaker. I am prepared for a discussion on the Telecom Policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

*65. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:**
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided for rural electrification during 1993-94 and 1994-95 upto December, 1994, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages electrified during the last three years under Rural Electrification Programme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any time bound scheme/programme for electrification of all villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE):

(a) State-wise details of the financial assistance provided by Rural Electrification Corporation for rural electrification work during 1993-94 and 1994-95 upto September, 1994 is given in *Statement-I*

(b) State-wise details of number of villages electrified during the last three years under rural electrification programme is given in *Statement-II*.

(c) to (e). Rural Electrification is a continuing process. The targets for rural Electrification Programme are fixed by the Planning Commission on an Annual basis in consultation with State Electricity Boards, keeping in view the overall availability of resources and the proposals received from the State Electricity Boards concerned.

Statement-I

STATEWISE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BY REC DURING 1993-94 AND 1994-95 (Upto September 1994)

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	States	Financial assistance provided during			
		1993-94		1994-95	
		Allocation	Disbursement	Allocation	Disbursement (Upto Sept. 1994)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Abdhra Pradesh	49.00	104.93	73.73	53.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.25	5.25	5.50	0.00
3.	Bihar	9.25	2.89	4.75	0.00
4.	Gujarat	34.00	36.58	43.82	15.50
5.	Haryana	13.50	18.25	14.16	6.35
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3.50	4.81	6.00	0.50