

**Statement IX**

*Proposals in the 9th Plan (1997—2002)  
for Upgradation and expansion of Telecom Network  
(Salient Points from the Objectives of the Proposals)*

**A. UPGRADATION**

- \* Replace life expired and unserviceable analogue systems and Technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.
- \* Manual Trunk Services in SSA Headquarters to be computerised.
- \* Computerised billing and accounting, Commercial activities, records of cable network and Directory Enquiry Services.
- \* Modernise Fault Repair Service.
- \* Introduce Wireless in local loop. H.D.S.L., A.D.S.L. and Optical Fibre technologies will be gradually in the local network.
- \* Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing Village Public Telephones.
- \* Provide all exchanges with reliable media.
- \* Provide diversity in transmission network between Trunk Automatic Exchanges.
- \* Introduce Network Management System for control and management of network.
- \* Provide single window customer service centres.

**B. EXPANSION PLANS**

* Net Switching Capacity (Lakh lines)	230
* Direct Exchange Lines (Lakh lines)	185
* TAX (Lakh lines)	18
* Village Public Telephones (Thousands)	239
* Transmission Systems	
Microwave Rkm	} 90,000
UHF Rkm	
Optical Fibre Rkm	1,40,000
<b>Total :</b>	<b>2,30,000</b>

**Preservation of Coral Reef**

\*472. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has agreed to provide financial assistance to preserve the coral reef in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the total assistance proposed to be provided for the purpose; and

(c) the details of such coral reef found in other parts of country and assistance provided for their preservation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a): No, Sir. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an implementing agency of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has acted as a facilitator in securing financial assistance from GEF for a project to develop a management plan for selected sites of coral reefs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) The total assistance proposed to be provided for this project is US \$ 345,000.

(c) A statement enclosed.

**Statement**

The major coral reef formations in India are located in the Gulf of Manner, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep Islands.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance to management action plans of State Government and Union Territory Administration concerned for conservation and management of coral reefs under the scheme entitled "Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs"

The financial assistance provided for management action plan of coral reefs under the scheme in the eighth Plan and 1997-98 is as under

		(Rs. in lakhs)
Coral reef	Assistance provided during Eighth Plan and 1997-98	
1. Gulf of Kutch		11.33
2. Andaman and Nicobar		24.39
3. Lakshdweep		31.50
4. Gulf of Mannar		10.51