

VLPT at Mananthody and HPT at Cannanore in Kerala

591. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether the work on the proposed VLPT at Mananthody in Wynad District and HPT at Cannanore in Kerala have commenced and completed respectively.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government are aware that some parts of tribal District of Wynad are still not getting the Doordarshan programme telecast from Trivandrum; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all parts of Wynad District have access to the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Work for the construction of building at High Power Transmitter (HPT), Cannanore has commenced. The scheme for Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Mananthody in Wynad District is yet to be sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Low Power Transmitter (LPT), Kalpatta is presently functioning in Wynad District. Parts of District are covered by HPT, Calicut (interim set up). Both HPT, Calicut (interim) and LPT, Kalpatta relay programmes set out from DDK, Trivandrum during regional service time slot. TV service in Wynad District is expected to improve with the commissioning of HPTs under implementation at Cannanore and at Calicut (permanent set up).

New Billing System By MTNL

592. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has decided to evolve a new billing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of mechanism evolved to instantly solve the disputes of over billing etc; and

(d) the time by which this new billing system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (d) To evolve an integrated package, so that all customer related pre-and-post connection issues as also issues relating to billing and accountal are effectively addressed, MTNL is experimenting with a new package called Customer Service Management System (CSMS). Time frame of implementation will depend upon the outcome of experimentation.

Saving Schemes in Post Offices

593. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits made in post offices in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new schemes to attract people to deposit more amount in post offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, the total deposits made in post offices located at Hyderabad during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (in Rs.)
1995-96	206,82,01,389.40
1996-97	185,68,25,495.98
1997-98	226,27,33,615.59

(b) For the present there is no proposal to introduce a new scheme to attract people to deposit more amount in post offices.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Modernisation of Postal Services

594. SHRI D.B. ROY:

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

SHRI C.D. GAMIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to modernise the postal services through the induction of new technology in the rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Modernisation of post offices involves introduction of computer based counter machines for providing efficient, responsive and speedy transactions for all classes of postal articles through a single window. Secondly, the introduction of technology is with reference to installation of VSAT with a view to expediting transmission of money orders which are mainly destined for rural areas. There are departmental post offices and extra departmental branch offices in the rural areas. Computerisation of the counters is confined to only departmental post offices as extra departmental branch offices stand on another footing. The main benefit of installation of VSAT is targeted, towards remittances of money from major urban centres to rural areas for the rural population. In Uttar Pradesh 7 VSAT and 44 ESMO have been installed and in Karnataka 5 VSATs and 33 ESMO have been installed so far.