

(e) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) No such case of theft stamps of about one crore rupees has come to light in Kanpur (UP).

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Installation of Telephone in Rural/Urban Areas

1662. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to meet the increasing telephone demand in rural, urban and metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) the details of the priority accorded any supply of essential equipments for installation of rural telephone exchanges and to provide connectivity all villages and panchayats with PCO's STD and ISD networks; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the policy for rural connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) The Government has stepped up investment and annual targets to meet the increasing telephone demand.

The targets and achievements for the last three years and the targets for the current and next financial years are given in the attached statement.

(b) Following priorities/plans have been decided in respect of telephone facilities in rural areas:

(i) Telephone on demand by the year 2002.

(ii) VPTs in all villages by the year 2002.

(iii) STD facilities for all telephone exchanges by the year 2000.

(iv) Reliable transmission media for all telephone exchanges by the year 2002.

(c) The main reasons for delay have been lack of resources/suitable technology and delay in commercial operations by private basic service operators to meet the scattered requirement of rural telecommunications.

Statement

Target/achievement for the last three years and targets for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Year	Target	Achievement (in lakh lines)
1995-96	20.00	21.83
1996-97	24.50	25.65
1997-98	29.00	32.59
1998-99	36.00	
1999-2000	39.00	

Recovery of Blank Passports

1663. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether thousands of blank passports stolen from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have been recovered recently;

(b) if so, the total number of passports recovered and the number of passports still missing;

(c) the persons held responsible for the thefts; and

(d) the measures taken to streamline the system of keeping passports in safe custody?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) and (d) 962 out of a consignment of 1000 blank passport booklets stolen from the Passport Office at Ghaziabad have been seized by the Delhi Police recently. No such incident has taken place in the Regional Passport Office at Delhi.

(c) and (d) Three persons have been arrested in connection with the theft. Apart from police investigation, a departmental enquiry has been initiated regarding procedural lapses at the Passport Office in Ghaziabad and action would be taken against the officials found responsible. Suitable instructions for the safe keeping and accounting of the blank passport booklets in stock have been reiterated to all Passport Offices for strict compliance, to obviate recurrence of such incidents.

Telecommunication Facilities

1664. KUMARI KIM GANGTE:

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide better telecommunication facilities in Manipur, backward and tribal areas to Uttar Pradesh and backward areas of Goa and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to construct the building for telephone exchanges in Bihar;

(e) If so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken are as under:-

(i) STD facilities for all telephone exchanges by the year 2000.

(ii) Reliable transmission media for all telephone exchanges by the year 2002.

(iii) Upgradation of access network by laying underground cables.

(iv) Introduction of technologies for VPTs.

(v) Power Plant and batteries of adequate capacity for all exchanges.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Following steps have taken to expedite construction of exchange buildings in Bihar:-

— Land has been acquired at many places.

— To expedite planning work, building/structural drawings for the exchanges of different capacities have been standardised.

The details of the buildings planned for construction are provided in the enclosed statement.

(f) Not applicable in view of the reply to part (e) of the question.

Statement

Location-wise details where buildings are proposed to be constructed for Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

Location	Place
1	2
Bettiah	Bettiah
	Horsidhi
	Jogapatti
Motihari	Bagaha
	Motihari
	Pakridayal
	Raxaul
	Sugaul
	Madhubaa

1	2
	Bara Chakia
Sitamarhi	Parihar
	Sheohar
	Pupari
	Raipur
Muzaffarpur	Ratwara
	Basantpurpatti
Valsali	Valsali
	Sarai
	Lalaganj
	Bhagwanpur
	Birna lakhansen
	Mahua
Chapra	Chapra
	Ekma
	Sonepur
	Dighwara
	Baniyapur
	Basantpur
	Mashrakh
	Taraiyan
	Garkha
	Marhaura
Parsa	
	Jalalpur
	Manjhi
	Maharajganj
Siwan	Siwan
	Mairawan
Darbhanga	Darbhanga (Belalalace)
	Lokaha
	Khutauna
Samastipur	Samastipur
	Rosera
	Dalsinghsarai
	Mohiuddin Nagar

1	2	1	2
Begusarai	Lakhminiya	Chaibasa	Chaibasa
Khagaria	Muskipur		Chakradherpur
	Parwatta	Palamu	Latehar
	Mahesh Khunt		Navinagar
Madhubani	Madhubani	Arrah	Piro
	Jainagar	Sasaram	Kochas
	Benipatti		Vikramganj
	Ghogardiha	Gaya	Tekari
Saharsa	Simari-Bakhtiyarpur		Kurtha
	Saharsa		Arwal
	Salkhua		Sherghati
Madhepura	Madhepura		Daudnagar
	Raghopur		Lohardaga
	Birpur		
Araria	Araria	Patna	Patelnagar
	Jogabani		Bikram
Purnia	Raniganj		Bihta
	Kaswa		Naubatpur
	Baisi		Punpun
	Puraini		Masaurhi
Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon		Bakhtiyarpur
	Asarganj		Mokamah
	Sultanganj		Barh
	Amarpur		Patna City
	Bausi		Rajgir
Banka	Banka		Chandi
Monghyr	Bariarpur		
	Jhajha		
Deoghar	Deoghar		
Godda	Godda		
Giridih	Giridih		
Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh		
	Barhi		
	Simaria		
Nawadah	Nawadah		
Jamshedpur	Kadma		
	Baharagora		
	Ghatsila		

Funds for Production of Films

1665. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds to some private companies for production and telecast of a number of films in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the norms/guidelines have been followed in this regard;