

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:102  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000  
IMPROVEMENT OF TELEPHONE AND P & T FACILITIES  
HARIBHAU MAHALE

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the government have decided to improve telephone , post and telegraph facilities in Maharashtra particularly in the tribal area ;
- (b) if so , the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ; and
- (c) if not , the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For Telephone:- Plans have been drawn for providing telephone on demand in the State of Maharashtra in all areas including tribal areas, progressively by March 2002. It is also planned to provide reliable transmission media to all exchanges by 2002.

For Post:- The information is given in Annexure.

For Telegraph:- In general, the telegraph facilities have been modernized in the State of Maharashtra by providing micro processor based electronic message switches like Store and Forward Message Switching Systems(SFMSS) & Electronic Key Board Concentrators(EKBCs). Two SFMSS 128 lines, two SFMSS 64 lines, three SFMSS 32 lines & 42 EKBCs have been provided to ltr and network Telegraph offices for quick transmission of telegrams. Also the rates of incentive money to Telegraph messengers have been enhanced for expeditious delivery of telegrams. However, there are no specific plans for tribal areas of Maharashtra.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply as above.

**ANNEXURE**

REPLY IN RESPECT OF PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARD QUESTION NO. 102 FOR 24TH JULY 2000 FOR DEPARTI OF POST REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF TELEPHONE AND P&T FACILITIES

1. The number of Post Offices opened in Maharashtra during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan:

| Year | Tribal Areas | Other Areas |
|------|--------------|-------------|
|------|--------------|-------------|

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| 1997-98   | 10 | 24 |
| 1998-99   | 13 | 56 |
| 1999-2000 | 9  | 41 |

2. The number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) opened in Maharashtra during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan:

| Year | No.of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras |
|------|--------------------------------------|
|------|--------------------------------------|

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 1997-98   | Nil |
| 1998-99   | 10  |
| 1999-2000 | 62  |

3. Targets for 2000-01 for the State of Maharashtra:

Post Offices 60 Extra Departmental Branch Offices. (12 in Tribal areas and 48 in other areas)

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) 85

The opening of new Post Offices is subject to availability of funds and sanction of posts by Ministry of Finance. The Post offices are opened as per Five Year Plan projections approved by Planning Commission.