

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1359
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
PAYMENT OF TELEPHONE BILLS
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to authorize all banks to receive the payments of telephone bills and also to authorize the rural post offices for the same;
- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and
- (c) the number of rural post offices and banks authorized for this purpose in each State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a)&(b) Since 01-10-2000, the Government is no longer providing telephone services. The public sector undertakings, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as well as private operators provide these. The collection of telephone bills is now the responsibility of individual telecom Service Providers including the BSNL and MTNL.

(c) The Government (Department of Telecom) has not authorized any nationalized banks/post offices for this purpose, as these are now matters to be decided by individual Service Providers.