

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
LAYING OF TELEPHONE LINES BY PRIVATE COMPANY
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;ZORA SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an agreement to the effect of laying of telephone lines in rural areas had been reached while awarding licence to private companies in telecom sector last year;
- (b) if so, the names of the private companies which have worked in accordance with the said agreement; and
- (c) the names of states where work has been carried out alongwith the extent of work done ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) Licence Agreements were signed by private companies in 1997-98 whereby they have a contractual obligation to honour their volunteered performance commitments for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas during the first three years of their licence period.
- (b) None of the six private licensee companies has provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in accordance with these agreements.
- (c) The telephone service has been started by five private licensee companies - one each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. 12 (twelve) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided by the private company in Madhya Pradesh.