

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3831
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
TARGET SET FOR TELECOM SECTOR BY PGC
RITA VERMA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not achieving the targets set for telecom sector by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited so far;
- (b) whether the above company had set unrealistic targets for telecom sector during the last year;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) if not, the reasons for spending only one-fourth amount of the total amount allocated under the telecom head to it;
- (e) whether Power Grid Corporation itself is responsible for not getting the timely approval of the competent authority to award the contract of packages for Telecom Base Network; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (f) : The Feasibility Report submitted by POWERGRID for establishment of backbone telecom network was taken up for investment approval in June, 2000. In anticipation of Government approval for the project, a provision of Rs.472 crore was made in the budget for 2002-03 for this project. Since this was a new venture taken up by POWERGRID, certain issues were required to be resolved in consultation with Department of Telecommunication, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) and Ministry of Finance. These issues were ultimately resolved and the investment approval for the project could be issued by the Government only in March, 2003. Consequently an amount of Rs.83 crore alone could be utilized by POWERGRID during 2002-03.