

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2404  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003  
TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN REMOTE AREAS  
SURESH CHANDEL

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

- (a) whether after the conversion of the department of telecommunications into corporation by the Government there has been a lot of deficiency in extending telecommunication facility in rural areas especially in remote and inaccessible areas;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the corporation officers are giving directions for not installing telephone exchanges in such inaccessible areas where there is less income despite prior approval given by the Department of telecommunications to its schemes for opening of these telephone exchanges in the said areas;
- (d) if so, whether the target fixed by the Government for providing cent percent telecommunication facility to all the villages by the year 2004 would be achieved in such circumstances; and
- (e) if so, the manner in which the target would be achieved?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Guidelines for installation of new telephone exchanges have been revised by BSNL keeping in view the techno-economic aspect. The revised guidelines states that;
  - (i) The planning of rural area should be first with WLL solution.
  - (ii) If WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons, a new exchange could be planned with approval of the Head of the Circle.
- (d) & (e): The telecom facilities in the rural areas of the country is measured in terms of provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs). It is targeted to provide VPTs to all villages by year 2004 except for villages which are depopulated, naxalite infested and villages falling under thick forest.