

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
LICENCE AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE OPERATORS
SUNIL KHAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Licence Agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10% of their total commitments as VPTs;
- (b) if so, whether the private operators have fulfilled their obligations since their operations commenced; and
- (c) if not, the loss of amount incurred by the Government in this regard alongwith the action taken against the defaulting operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SUNIL KHAN)
(SUNIL KHAN)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The quoted percentage was translated to actual number of VPTs subject to maximum number of uncovered villages in Service area at the time of tendering.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Some VPTs were provided by Department of Telecommunications(DoT)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as a successor organisation in Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra service areas. Licence agreement stipulated that if all the villages in the service area have been provided with at least one public telephone by the DoT or the private operator, in such cases this obligation will cease to be applicable. Since both the DoT and the Licensee will be providing Village Telephones in the same service area, a mutually agreed procedure shall be evolved to avoid infructuous efforts on the part of either as well as to avoid some villages getting left out by both. Liquidated Damage Charges to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores have been recovered from six Private Basic Telephone Service Operators for delay in commencement of service as well as delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines and as such it cannot be termed as loss of amount incurred by the Government.