

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2363  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003  
TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN HILLY AREAS  
MAHESHWAR SINGH;SURESH CHANDEL

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

- (a) the State-wise number of Telephone Exchanges in hilly areas especially in Himachal Pradesh in regard to which permission for their establishment was given under annual plan at circle level;
- (b) the number out of them in regard to which buildings were rented and MCPC and other equipments were also purchased for setting up the exchanges;
- (c) whether it is a fact that after the announcement of the policy by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the approval in regard to those Telephone exchanges where the demand for telephone connections were less than 80 and including the exchanges where local cable to the length of one and a half to two kilometres was required was either cancelled or the proposal was dropped;
- (d) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government would provide network of telephone services to cover cent percent population living in hilly areas?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (d) BSNL does not maintain separate list for telephone exchanges in States for hilly areas. For Himachal Pradesh, initially three numbers of new exchanges were planned at Dhanotu, Raja Ka Talab and Mugla. However, after WLL based stations that have been planned at Sunder Nagar and Fatehpur, the plan for opening new exchanges at Dhanotu and Raja Ka Talab have been dropped as these places will be covered from Sunder Nagar and Fatehpur BTSs respectively. Now only one proposal for opening of new telephone exchange during 2003-04 has been finalized in Himachal Pradesh, as it is not possible to cover Mugla by WLL.
- (e) The existing waiting list which cannot be cleared from existing exchanges is planned to be cleared by providing connections on WLL. There is a plan to install WLL capacity of 32500 lines during current financial year 27500 lines during next financial year for this purpose.