

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000  
WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL  
ANIL BASU

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a large number of wait listed applicants in rural areas of West Bengal are not provided with telephone connections so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether similar situation exists in other States also;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connections to the wait listed applicants in West Bengal?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS ( SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

a)&(b) : Yes Sir. As on 30.6.2000, there is a waiting list of 93,566 in the rural areas of West Bengal Circle. The district-wise details are given in Annex-I.

The main reasons for this waiting list are the non-commissioning of the planned new exchanges for want of electrical power and local problems in laying underground cables resulting in insufficient external network.

(c) &(d): Yes, Sir. The Circle-wise Rural waiting list as on 30.6.2000 is given in Annex-II.

(e) As per the objectives of 9th plan, telephones will be provided on demand by the year 2002 in the rural as well as in the urban areas. Action has already been initiated for provision of necessary infrastructure, equipment etc. to achieve this objective. For the year 2000-2001, following targets have been set for the rural areas of West Bengal Circle:-

New Telephone Exchanges = 210  
DELS = 1,04,000

**ANNEX-I**

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (b) OF LOK SBHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1273 FOR 31ST JULY, 2000 REGARDING WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

DISTRICT WISE WAITING LIST IN RURAL AREAS OF WEST BENGAL AS ON 30.6.2000.

S.NO. NAME OF DISTRICT WAITING LIST IN RURAL AREAS.

1	24 PARGANAS (N)	7,259
2	24 PARGANAS (S)	3,777
3	BURDWAN	14,104
4	BANKURA	3,223
5	BERHAMPUR	4,632
6	COOCHBEHAR	2,890
7	DAKSHIN DINAJPUR	1,445
8	DARJEELING	7,833
9	HOOGHLY	9,362
10	HOWRAH	2,041
11	JALPAIGURI	3,797
12	MALDA	2,122
13	MIDNAPUR	10,235
14	MURSHIDABAD	7,467
15	NADIA	11,120

16 PURULIA 1,051  
17 UTTAR DINAJPUR 1,208

TOTAL 93,566

## ANNEX-II

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (d) OF LOK SBHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1273 FOR 31ST JULY,2000 REGARDING  
WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

CIRCLE WISE RURAL WAITING LIST AS ON 30.6.2000.

S.NO. CIRCLE RURAL WAITING LIST

1 ANDHRA PRADESH 2,60,595  
2 ANDAMAN & NICOBAR 1,468  
3 ASSAM 7,011  
4 BIHAR 50,217  
5 GUJARAT 59,416  
6 HARYANA 45,526  
7 HIMACHAL PRADESH 28,753  
8 JAMMU & KASHMIR 5,502  
9 KARNATAKA 1,93,274  
10 KERALA 5,17,754  
11 MADHYA PRADESH 8,468  
12 MAHARASHTRA 1,58,118  
13 NORTH EAST 9,847  
14 ORISSA 20,647  
15 PUNJAB 1,11,965  
16 RAJASTHAN 75,175  
17 TAMILNADU 1,25,482  
18 UP (RAST) 66,155  
19 UP (WEST) 24,564  
20 WEST BENGAL 1,16.133

TOTAL 18,86,070