

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2229  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000  
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN NORTH-EASTERN STATES  
SAMAR CHOUDHURY

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

- (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the North Eastern States including in the villages of Tripura, State-wise;
- (b) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided to the wait listed persons;
- (c) whether majority of the villages Public Telephone and telephones in sub-division and headquarters are not functioning properly for the last two years in the State;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the North East States including in the village of Tripura, State-wise is given below:

Name of State      Waiting list as on 30.06.2000

Arunachal Pradesh	1215
Manipur	6065
Meghalaya	2799
Mizoram	3227
Nagaland	1617
Tripura	14895

Total for N.E.      29818

- (b) The wait listed persons are likely to be provided telephone connections by the end of current financial year.
- (c) Out of 4338 VPTs, 1258 are not working which is 29% of total Village Public telephones. The telephones in Sub Divisional Headquarters, District Headquarters and other towns are functioning properly. Whenever faults are reported they are being attended to promptly.
- (d) Poor road communications, remoteness and inaccessibility due to Hilly Terrain, natural calamities like flood, land slide due to heavy rain etc are the main reasons for delay in the rectification of faults
- (e) The following steps are being taken in this regard:
  1. New system like TDMA PMP, Satellite VPT and WLL are being introduced in the network.
  2. Faulty units are being repaired by the manufactures.
  3. Annual Maintenance Contract has already been entered into with M/s Shyam Telecom.
  4. Repair centre for MARR at Shillong and Agartala have been opened and started functioning.
  5. Daily monitoring of MARR VPTs and Earth Stations has been started.
  6. Training on maintenance and installation of MARR systems has been given to staff of all the SSAs.