

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2203
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006
SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN H.P.
Singh Smt. Pratibha

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

- (a) whether tribal districts of Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Pagi and Bharmaur division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh remain cut off due to snow-fall in winter months thereby affecting telecommunication services to this area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is shortage of staff in telephone exchanges in this region; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to ensure trouble free telecommunication services to this region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) &(b) Sir, the telecommunication facilities in tribal districts of Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Pagi and Bharmaur division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh are available throughout the year except during heavy snow fall/land slides in winters, when movement of staff and diesel etc is affected which sometimes affect the operation of telecom services.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Besides redeployment of officers and staff, installation of additional systems like WLL and Mobile and upgradation of existing transmission media are taken up to ensure better telecom services to this region.