

**COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(1992-93)**

(TENTH LOK SABHA)

NINTH REPORT

**ON
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

(Presented on March 3, 1993)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

January 21, 1993 / Magha 1, 1914 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA

CORRIGENDA

to the Ninth Report of the Committee on
Government Assurances (1992-93),
Tenth Lok Sabha

Page	Para	Line	Correction
(i)		5	<u>For 'APPENDIX' read</u> <u>'APPENDICES'</u>
		After line 6	<u>Insert 'Minutes of Sitting,</u> <u>held on March 2, 1993 P 14'</u>
(v)	5	2	<u>For 'and' read 'to'</u>
1	1.2	Last line	<u>For 'Communication' read</u> <u>'Communications'</u>
2	1.6	29	<u>For 'matters' read 'matter'</u>
9		Heading	<u>For 'Appendix' read</u> <u>'Appendices'</u>
	2	4	<u>For 'Communication' read</u> <u>'Communications'</u>
12		At the top	<u>Insert 'MINUTES'</u> Second Sitting
14		At the top	<u>Insert 'MINUTES'</u> Third Sitting

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES*

(1992-93)

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey

MEMBERS

2. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi
3. Shri B. Devarajan
4. Smt. Saroj Dubey
5. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria
6. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
7. Shri Balin Kuli
8. Shri Manphool Singh
9. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
10. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
11. Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil
12. Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
13. Dr. D. Venkateshwara Rao
14. Shri A. Prathap Sai
15. Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.C. Bhardwaj — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri Murari Lal — *Director*
3. Shri Joginder Singh — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri K.K. Ganguly — *Under Secretary*

*The Committee was nominated by the Speaker w.e.f. 13 December, 1992 vide Para 1596 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 14.12.92

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances, as authorised by the Committee, do present on their behalf this Ninth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (1992-93) were constituted on December 13, 1992.

3. The Committee (1989-90) at their sitting held on April 5, 1989 took the evidences of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications in connection with the non-implementation of the assurance given on February 28, 1984 in reply to Starred Question No. 43 regarding National Communications Policy. The Committee (1990-91) again took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications in this regard on March 5, 1990. The Committee (1991-92) reviewed this pending assurance at their sitting held on December 27, 1991 and gave their observations in the Second Report presented on March 25, 1992. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) on September 18, 1992. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Ninth Report at their sitting held on January 21, 1993.

4. The Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 18.9.92 form part of this Report.

5. The conclusions / observations of the Committee are contained in paras 1.22 and 1.25 of this Report.

6. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Communications who appeared before the Committee.

NEW DELHI;
January 21, 1993

Magha 1, 1914 (Saka)

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEY,
Chairman,
Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

On February 28, 1984, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi and Prof. Narain Chand Parashar, MPs addressed the following Starred Question No. 43 to the Minister of Communications:

- “(a) whether Government have a proposal to adopt a national policy on communications;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and when such national policy is expected to be adopted; and
- (c) the steps taken to expedite the introduction of such a National Communications Policy?”

1.1 In reply to the question, the then Minister of State for Communications (Shri V.N. Gadgil) stated as follows:—

- “(a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) A policy paper is under preparation.
- (c) The policy will be basically a guideline for formulation of the plans of various Departments like Communications, Information and Broadcasting etc. No specific steps at present are proposed other than this.”

1.2 During the course of supplementaries on the question, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, M.P. wanted to know the main recommendations of the various conferences and seminars held during the World Communications Year for improvement of the Indian telecommunication system and whether the Government of India had accepted any other major recommendations. He also desired to know the main policy decisions that the Government would like to take so far as the national communication policy was concerned.

1.3 In reply to the above supplementary, the Minister of State in the Ministry of communications stated:

“1983 was celebrated as the World Communications Year at the instance of the United Nations and as a part of those celebrations many discussions and seminars were held, many agencies like the Chambers of the Commerce, Members of Parliament, Consultative Committees, were consulted, some ideas were thrown up, but as it pertains and affects many Ministries, like Electronics, Industries, Railways, Defence, we would like to obtain their views and after obtaining the views of the departments concerned, the statement will be finalised. I hope to present it in the next session of Parliament.”

1.4 The above reply to the supplementary was treated as an assurance which was required to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) within three months of the date of reply i.e. by May 27, 1984.

1.5 As the assurance was not fulfilled, the Committee (1989-90) at their sitting held on April 5, 1989 took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications. When asked about the reasons for the delay in implementing the assurance the Secretary of the Ministry stated:

“We have made a draft of the Communication Policy and it was circulated to the Consultative Committee of Parliament on 8.5.1988. After that some more changes have taken place. After the Telecom. Commission takes a shape, we would like them to have a look at the policy to be implemented in the next 10 years or so. Let Telecom. Commission also apply their mind. After that it will go to Cabinet for approval and then it would be submitted to Parliament.”

1.6 As the assurance remained unfulfilled, the Committee on Government Assurances (1990-91) at their sitting held on February 8, 1990 again reviewed this pending assurance along with other assurances of Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas and decided to take oral evidence of the Ministry of Communications. On March 5, 1991, the Committee (1990-91) took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Deptt. of Telecommunications) and made the following observations in their Sixth Report presented to the Lok Sabha on September 4, 1991:—

“The Committee are extremely unhappy to note the inordinate delay in the formulation of a National Telecommunication Policy. It was way back in February, 1984 that the Minister informed Lok Sabha that Government proposed to adopt a national policy on Communications and a policy paper in this regard was under preparation. In fact he hoped to present it in the next session of Parliament. The matter, was however, allowed to drift thereafter and the National Telecommunication Policy has not been finalised even after the lapse of more than six years since then. During the evidence before the Committee on March 5, 1990 the Secretary of the Ministry of Communications promised to lay the policy on the Table of the House during the Budget Session. It is, however, yet to be finalised and the Ministry have now sought further extension upto August 15, 1990 to implement the assurance. Such inordinate delays in implementing the assurance on important matters is a sad reflection on the system of functioning of Government and is indicative of the scant regard shown to the assurance given by the Minister on the floor of the House. The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance and urgent need for the formulation of the National Telecommunication Policy. The matters should be reviewed at the

highest level in the Government with a view to finalise the policy paper at the earliest to end the uncertainty in this regard."

1.7 As this assurance was not implemented even by the end of 1991, it was reviewed again by the Committee at their sitting held on December 27, 1991, alongwith another pending assurance of Seventh Lok Sabha.

1.8 The Committee again made the following observations in this regard in their Second Report (1991-92) presented to the Lok Sabha on March 25, 1992:—

"The Committee are constrained to observe that the Ministry did not accord due importance and attention to the assurance and treated it in a lackadaisical manner. The Committee see no justification for the inordinate delay on such an important subject of national importance viz. National Communication Policy in spite of the fact that telecommunication is critical to overall modernisation and is no longer a luxury but a necessity. The Committee reiterate the earlier observations made on the National Communication Policy in their Sixth Report of Ninth Lok Sabha. The Committee find no logical reasoning for the non-implementation of the assurance and keeping it pending for more than eight years.

The Committee decide to pursue this assurance and hope that during the current Budget Session the Ministry will implement the assurance and forward a brief to the Committee highlighting the steps taken after March 5, 1990 to implement the assurance."

1.9 Inspite of the above observations, the assurance remained pending even by September 1992 and the Committee decided to take further oral evidence on this pending assurance. The representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Deptt. of Telecommunications) appeared before the Committee for the third time on September 18, 1992 to tender oral evidence and explained to the Committee the following reasons for the delay in finalising the Draft National Communications Policy:—

".....Our Minister had given an assurance in February 1984 about laying in the Parliament the policy paper on the National Communications policy. Therefore, I must admit, for various reasons, we have not been able to fulfil that assurance. I want to seek your indulgence and explain the present position first.

This policy paper needs the approval of the Cabinet before it is placed in the Parliament. We have now submitted that document for approval of the Cabinet. We expect to get the Cabinet approval. Still one or two Ministries have yet to give their comments because this policy paper probably concerns many Ministries, as many as 31 Ministries in the Government... And with their comments we expect that we will be able to get the Cabinet approval and then place it in the Parliament, may be in the next session.

I am sorry that we have been saying this for so many years. My predecessors have appeared before this Committee at least twice and they had also made similar observations and assurances. I must assure you that we have been trying our best to get the document ready and get it properly cleared or approved by the competent authority. But the process itself is extremely long.

Third thing was the Department itself has undergone several changes in the administrative structure since 1984. After that we had a separation of the Department in 1985. Then a Telecom Commission was formed in 1989. There have been several changes in the Government which need to be reflected in the policy document every time. There is a change. We try to rather work on them, making a new document again. The process has to be repeated. That is the only reason that we have not been able to get this document and place it before the Parliament.... we sent it to the Cabinet after consulting our Minister on April 27, 1992. The policy concerns to our Ministry and there is no direct financial implication on this. But the Cabinet Secretariat asked to get the comments of all the Ministries. We followed that instruction to cut down the time.

...It came back to us within a week or ten days. Then we immediately sent it to thirty-one Ministries."

1.10 The Committee enquired whether the comments of the Ministry of Finance and other Ministries were incorporated before the Draft Policy Paper was sent to the Cabinet. In reply, the representative informed that on April 27, 1992, the draft policy was sent to the Cabinet without the comments of the Ministry of Finance which were not yet received. But the Cabinet Secretariat insisted that the comments of the Ministry of Finance must be incorporated.

1.11 The representative further added that there was no direct financial implication of the policy as there was no proposal for purchasing any major equipment. He also added that the reply of the Ministry of Finance was still awaited.

1.12 When the Committee enquired about the efforts being made at the Ministry level to get the comments of the Ministry of Finance as early as possible, the representative added:

"This has to be discussed between our Minister and the Finance Minister."

1.13 On a pointed question to state the extent to which the new national telecommunications policy would meet the growing demand from the public for a variety of services like facsimile, video-conferencing, data communication etc., the representative regretted his inability to disclose it before the Cabinet approval.

1.14 The Committee pointed out the representative that they were professional experts and desired to know how they could help the whole nation while framing the Draft Policy.

1.15 The representative stated that telecom scene consisted of three parts: 1) provision of the services to the public; 2) indigenous manufacture of sophisticated equipment; and 3) research and development of the technology required for manufacture as well as for running the service. In the service sector, he elucidated that six million telephones had been provided to the public and the waiting list was for 2.6 million. In 1991-92, 7.3 lakh telephones had been added and this year (1992-93) about 2.8 lakh telephones would be provided representing about 14% growth. He also added that a plan to add about 7.5 million new telephones upto 1997 had been drawn up requiring an investment of about Rs. 40,000 crores. Besides, sophisticated services would be provided to some sections of the society who wanted it and it would be set up by private enterprises which would be selected and given licences. As 85% of the villages do not have a single telephone, the telephone technology was also proposed to be extended to each of the 2,20,000 village gram panchayats by 1995 at an average cost of Rs. 1,50,000/- totalling to Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 crores.

1.16 In regard to the telecom manufacture, he clarified that till 1985, only the public sector was involved. In 1985, there was liberalisation and the telecom manufacturing was partly allowed in the private sector. After the adoption of new policy, practically all the telecom equipments could be manufactured in the private sector including joint ventures by some local companies with some foreign companies. Such instruments would be available by the next four years. He also added that research and development of C-Dot would produce 10,000 line capacity rural automatic exchange (RAX) for rural areas and 4,000 of such exchanges were already working in the network.

1.17 In reply to a question, whether the telecommunications policy statement would cover postal services as well, the Chairman, Telecom Commission, explained that postal services policy would be separate and not a part of the telecom services policy.

1.18 When asked how far the new Policy would tackle the menace of cable and dish antenna, the representative replied that his Ministry was not concerned about it as it pertained to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. He however, added "we come into the picture to a very small extent with the physical laying of the cable which carried cable TV signal. It is mentioned in the Indian Telegraphs Act."

1.19 The representative also informed that the ideas emanating from the World Communication Year 1983 have been incorporated in the new Policy paper.

1.20 When a Member wanted to know in what manner the Policy

document was going to be modified in the context of the recent liberalisation of the economy, the representative added that the Policy document would reiterate the entry of private parties in all the areas of telecom manufacturing and for value added facilities/services.

1.21 Since the present request for extension of time for fulfilment of this assurance was upto October 27, 1992, the Committee enquired pointedly whether the assurance would be fulfilled by that time. In reply, the representative stated as follows:—

“We expect to get the Cabinet approval and place it on the Table of the House in the coming session.”

1.22 Looking back once again over the considerable delay in implementing the long pending assurance regarding National Communications Policy which took its roots in the year 1983 being ‘the World Communications Year’, the Committee conclude that it is most unfortunate that the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Tele-communications) had to be called for the third successive time to know the reasons for not fulfilling the assurance even after a lapse of more than eight years. The Committee are constrained to observe that the Ministry are not serious about implementation of the assurance on such an important subject of national importance like National Communications Policy in spite of the fact that telecommunication is critical to overall modernisation. The Committee are of the view that the representatives of the Ministry have tried to avert the specific reply on the reasons for not finalising the National Communications Policy so far. It is unfortunate that the Government have not taken note of the recommendations of the Committee made in the Sixth Report (Ninth Lok Sabha) and Second Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) and simply held out hollow promises that the Telecommunication Policy would be announced during the succeeding session of Parliament. The Committee deprecate this tendency and reiterate their earlier observations/recommendations made in the aforesaid Sixth Report of Ninth Lok Sabha and Second Report of Tenth Lok Sabha.

1.23 In view of the inordinate delay in finalisation of the Policy statement for implementation of the assurance, the Committee (1989-90) took the oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications on April 5, 1989. During the course of the evidence, the representatives again assured that the Draft Policy Paper would be submitted to Parliament after the approval of the Cabinet. The draft policy was circulated to the Consultative Committee of Parliament on May 8, 1989 but the assurance still remained unimplemented. The Committee (1990-91) again took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of

Communications (Department of Telecommunications) at their sitting held on March 5, 1990. The Secretary of the Ministry promised before the Committee to lay the Policy on the Table of the House during the ensuing Budget Session but it was not even finalised by that time. The subject matter was allowed to drift for two years more and the Ministry again sought extension of time for fulfilling the assurance. The Committee in their Sixth Report observed that the assurance should be fulfilled in Budget Session, 1992, but as the assurance remained pending, the Committee were left with no other alternative except to hear the views of representatives for the third time at their sitting held on September 18, 1992, about the reasons for not fulfilling the long pending assurance. During the course of evidence, the Committee came to know that the National Communications Policy was still at the preliminary stage only. The Committee were informed that it was only on April 27, 1992, that the Draft Policy Paper was submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat for placing it before the Cabinet. The Cabinet Secretariat returned the Draft Policy and insisted that the comments of the Ministry of Finance might be obtained. Thereafter the Ministry circulated the Policy Paper to 31 Ministries including the Ministry of Finance and the comments of 30 Ministries except the Ministry of Finance, have been received. The Committee note with distress that no special steps/initiative have been taken to obtain the comments of the Ministry of Finance. Instead during the third oral evidence on September 18, 1992 also the Committee have been assured that the Draft Policy would be placed before Parliament in 1992 Winter Session of Lok Sabha.

1.24 The Committee are extremely unhappy to note that the representatives of the Ministry have merely tried to pacify this august Committee by giving empty assurances and thus allowed the matter to drift from year to year. The Committee note with distress that it was way back in 1984 when Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, the then M.P. desired to know the main recommendations of the various conferences and seminars held during the "World Communications Year-1983" for improvement of Indian Telecommunication system and whether the Government of India had accepted any of the major recommendations made in those seminars/conferences etc. The Minister specifically assured the House that after obtaining the views of the concerned Departments regarding the ideas that were thrown up in those seminars/conferences, a Policy statement would be finalised. It was also assured that the National Communications Policy would be presented in the next Session of Parliament i.e. during August-September, 1984. The Committee observe that the present state of affairs in the matter of finalising the draft National Communications Policy is wholly unsatisfactory. The Committee further observed that had the officials of the Ministry been serious in the matter, the assurance would have been fulfilled in the year 1984 itself after getting the comments from the concerned Departments, but the drifting attitude and the lackadaisical approach of the officials are responsible for this important issue of national

document was going to be modified in the context of the recent liberalisation of the economy, the representative added that the Policy document would reiterate the entry of private parties in all the areas of telecom manufacturing and for value added facilities/services.

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Communications (Department of Telecommunications) at their sitting held on March 5, 1990. The Secretary of the Ministry promised before the Committee to lay the Policy on the Table of the House during the ensuing Budget Session but it was not even finalised by that time. The subject matter was allowed to drift for two years more and the Ministry again sought extension of time for fulfilling the assurance. The Committee in their Sixth Report observed that the assurance should be fulfilled in Budget Session, 1992, but as the assurance remained pending, the Committee were left with no other alternative except to hear the views of representatives for the third time at their sitting held on September 18, 1992, about the reasons for not fulfilling the long pending assurance. During the course of evidence, the Committee came to know that the National Communications Policy was still at the preliminary stage only. The Committee were informed that it was only on April 27, 1992, that the Draft Policy Paper was submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat for placing it before the Cabinet. The Cabinet Secretariat returned the Draft Policy and insisted that the comments of the Ministry of Finance might be obtained. Thereafter the Ministry circulated the Policy Paper to 31 Ministries including the Ministry of Finance and the comments of 30 Ministries except the Ministry of Finance, have been received. The Committee note with distress that no special steps/initiative have been taken to obtain the comments of the Ministry of Finance. Instead during the third oral evidence on September 18, 1992 also the Committee have been assured that the Draft Policy would be placed before Parliament in 1992 Winter Session of Lok Sabha.

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importance remaining pending and thus depriving the people of the benefits of this Policy particularly in view of the fact that 85% of our rural areas do not have even a single telephone connection whereas the policy of the Government of India has been to link every village with the latest communication system by the year 1995.

1.25 The Committee therefore desire that the observations of the Committee should be taken up more seriously by the Government and special steps should be taken to obtain the comments of the Ministry of Finance and the approval of the Cabinet at the earliest in order to implement the assurance without any further procrastination. The displeasure of the Committee should also be conveyed to the Ministry of Finance for delay in forwarding their comments in this regard. If the Ministry of Communications consider it necessary, the Cabinet Secretariat may also be apprised of the concern of this Committee on the subject matter and the long delay in fulfilling the assurance and efforts should be made to present the approved policy during the forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament in February 1993.

NEW DELHI;
January 21, 1993

Magha 1, 1914 (Saka)

DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEY,
Chairman,
Committee on Government Assurances.

Appendix

MINUTES

Thirteenth Sitting

**SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1992 IN COMMITTEE ROOM
NO. 'C', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.**

The Committee met on Friday, September 18, 1992 from 15.30 hours to 16.40 hours.

PRESENT

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Dr. Laxminarain Pandey | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| 2. Shri Sai Prathap Annayyagari | | |
| 3. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi | | |
| 4. Shri B. Devarajan | | |
| 5. Shri B.K. Gudadinni | | |
| 6. Shrimati Krishnandra Kaur (Deepa) | | |
| 7. Shri Balin Kuli | | |
| 8. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay | | |
| 9. Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil | | |
| 10. Shri Shashi Prakash | | |
| 11. Shri Naval Kishore Rai | | |

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Shri Murari Lal | — | <i>Director</i> |
| Shri Joginder Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| Shri K.K. Ganguly | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

WITNESSES

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Shri H.P. Wagle | — | <i>Secretary, Ministry of
Communications (Department
of Telecommunications)</i> |
| 2. Shri Jitendra Mohan | — | <i>D.D.G. (TP)</i> |

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) in connection with non-implementation of the assurance given on February 28, 1984 in reply to Starred Question No. 43 regarding National Communication Policy.

3. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications) and drew their attention to the provisions of Direction 58 of the Directions

issued by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Thereafter, the Chairman desired that the representatives might explain the reasons for the delay in fulfilment of the assurance.

4. In reply, the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications explained that the draft Policy had been placed before the Cabinet. The Comments of 29 concerned Ministries out of 31 have already been obtained and their views taken into consideration while drafting the Policy. After receipt of comments of the Ministry of Finance, the approval of the Cabinet was expected to be received and it was likely to be placed before the Parliament during the ensuing winter session. The representative further added that another reason for delay in framing the Policy was the changes in the administrative set up of the Department since 1984. A separate Telecom Department was formed in 1985. Thereafter a Telecom Commission was formed in 1989. Moreover, in view of several changes in the Government during the last eight years, the Policy document had to be changed time and again to reflect the new Government's policies and views. Consequently, the final approved Policy could not be placed before the Parliament.

5. The Chairman asked how long it had been pending with the Cabinet. In reply, the representative informed that on April 27, 1992, the draft Policy was sent to the Cabinet but the Cabinet Secretariat insisted that the comments of the Ministry of Finance must be incorporated. After getting the comments of the Finance Ministry, it would be sent again for approval. The comments of that Ministry were yet to be received although there was neither any proposal for purchasing any equipment nor any direct financial implication was involved in the long term policy which primarily consisted of increased in production, training of staff and management.

6. On a pointed question to state the extent to which the new national telecommunication policy would meet the growing demand from the public for a variety of services like facsimile, video-conferencing, data communication etc., the representative regretted his inability to disclose it before the Cabinet approval. He, however, explained that telecom scene consisted of three parts: (1) provision of the services to the public; (2) indigenous manufacture of sophisticated equipment and (3) research and development of the technology required for manufacture as well as for running the service. In the service sector, he elucidated that six million telephones have been provided to the public and the waiting list is for 2.6 million. In 1991-92, 7.3 lakh telephones have been added and this year about 2.8 lakh telephones would be provided representing about 14% growth. He also added that a plan to add about 7.5 million new telephones up to 1997 has been drawn up requiring an investment of about Rs. 40,000 crores. Besides, sophisticated services would be provided to some sections of the society who wanted it and it would be set up by private enterprises which would be selected and given licences. As 85% of the villages do not

have a single telephone, the telephone technology was also proposed to be extended to each of the 2,20,000 village gram panchayats by 1995 at an average cost of Rs. 1,50,000/- totalling to Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 crores.

7. In regard to the telecom manufacture, he clarified that till 1985, only the public sector was involved. In 1985, there was liberalisation and the telecom manufacturing was partly allowed in the private sector. After the adoption of new Policy, practically all the telecom equipments could be manufactured in the private sector including joint ventures by some local companies with some foreign companies. Such instruments would be available by the next four years. He also added that research and development of C-Dot would produce 10,000 line capacity rural automatic exchange (RAX) for rural areas and 4,000 of such exchanges were already working in the network.

8. In reply to a question, whether the telecommunications policy statement would cover postal services as well, the Chairman, Telecom Commission explained that postal services policy would be separate and not a part of the telecom services policy.

9. When asked how far the new policy would tackle the menace of cable and dish antenna, the representative replied that his Ministry was not concerned about it as it pertained to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. He, however, added "we come into the picture to a very small extent with the physical laying of the cable which carries cable TV signal. It is mentioned in the Indian Telegraphs Act."

10. The representative also informed that the ideas emanating from the World Communication year 1983 have been incorporated in the new Policy paper.

11. When a Member wanted to know in what manner the policy document was going to be modified in the context of the recent liberalisation of the economy, the representative added that the policy document would reiterate the entry of private parties in all the areas of telecom manufacturing and for value added facilities/services.

12. Since the present extension for fulfilling the assurance was upto October 27, 1992, the Chairman enquired pointedly whether the assurance would be fulfilled by that time. The representative again assured that the assurance was likely to be fulfilled by placing it before the Parliament by the next session and would seek only another extension. The representatives thereafter withdrew.

13. A record of verbatim proceedings was also taken therefore.

14. The meeting then adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY
21, 1993 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'D', PARLIAMENT HOUSE
ANNEXE, NEW DELHI.

The Committee met on Thursday, January 21, 1993 from 14.00 hours to 14.45 hours.

PRESENT

- Dr. Laxminarain Pandey — *Chairman*
2. Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi
 3. Shri B. Devarajan
 4. Smt. Saroj Dubey
 5. Shri B.K. Gudadinni
 6. Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria
 7. Shri Manphool Singh
 8. Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay
 9. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
 10. Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Murari Lal — *Director*
2. Shri Joginder Singh — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri K. K. Ganguly — *Under Secretary*

2. The Committee considered and adopted their Ninth Report with the following modification:—

In Para 1.25 at the end of line 6, add

“The displeasure of the Committee should also be conveyed to the Ministry of Finance for delay in forwarding their comments in this regard”.

6. The Committee approved their revised tour programme finally to visit only 3 places, namely Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Bhuvaneshwar and decided to visit Nagpur and Raipur later on.

The Committee then adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES HELD ON MARCH 2, 1993 IN
COMMITTEE ROOM '50', PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI.**

The Committee met on Tuesday, March 2, 1993, from 16.30 hours to 17.00 hours.

PRESENT

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. **Smt. Saroj Dubey**
3. **Shri B. K. Gudadini**
4. **Shri Balin Kuli**
5. **Shri Ajoy Mukhopadhyay**
6. **Shri Surendra Pal Pathak**
7. **Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil**
8. **Shri Chinmaya Nand Swami**

SECRETARIAT

1. **Shri Murari Lal** — *Director*
2. **Shri Joginder Singh** — *Deputy Secretary*
3. **Shri K. K. Ganguly** — *Under Secretary*

2. The Committee welcomed the sister Committee of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and discussed informally points of common interest about the procedure that is being followed by our Committee and by them.

3. Assurances Committee of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly invited our Committee to visit Madras during the inter-Session. The Committee accepted the invitation.

4. Thereafter the Committee authorised the Chairman and in his absence Shri B. K. Gudadini, M. P. to present the Ninth Report on the Table of the House on Wednesday, March 3, 1993.

The Committee then adjourned.

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