

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:681

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001

TELEPHONE FACILITY IN VILLAGES

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to connect all the villages with telephone by 2002;
- (b) if so, the number of villages where telephone facility provided and the number of villages where this facility has not been provided as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether these telephones having STD facility;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Government plans to connect all the revenue villages of the country by March, 2002 with the joint efforts of Fixed Service Providers.
- (b) 3,93,722 villages have been provided with telecom facility and 2,13,769 villages are without telecom facility as on 31.1.2001. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Annexure.
- (c) & (d): 7,497 village public telephones are having STD facility. STD facility is provided on demand.
- (e) Rs. 634 crores have been allocated for village public telephone for the current financial year 2000-2001.