

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003  
OFC WIRE IN RURAL AREAS  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether many telephone exchanges having more than 500 lines have not been connected with the OFC wire in the rural areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce wireless in local loop system instead of Optical Fibre Cable system in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) if not, the time by which the telephone exchanges having more than 500 lines will be connected with the OFC wire in the rural areas?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY( SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c)&(d) According to existing guidelines, all exchanges including rural exchanges are to be provided connectivity with reliable medium such as optical fibre cable, microwave, satellite, Pulse Code Modulation system on cable and underground cable. Hence there is no plan to connect all the telephone exchanges having more than 500 lines with Optical Fibre Cable in the rural areas.