

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1310  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003  
TELEPHONES TO VILLAGE PANCHAYATS  
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

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

- (a) whether all village Panchayats have been connected with Telephones with STD facility in Maharashtra and Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide telephones to village Panchayats with STD facility; and
- (e) the target fixed in this regard during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In Maharashtra, out of 24937 Village Panchayat, 22917 Village Panchayat have been provided with telephone facility by BSNL with 160 Village Panchayat having STD facility. In case of Karnataka all the 5692 Village Panchayat have been provided with telephone facilities and out of these 455 Village Panchayat telephones have STD facility.

(c) BSNL has completed its obligation of provisioning of Village Panchayat Telephones but there has been slippages on the part of private operators. However, the remaining uncovered villages shall be provided with telephone through Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund as a part of rural telephone network programme.

(d) As far as provisioning of STD facility is concerned it can be provided to any village telephone as STD facility is available in all the telephone exchanges and there is no bar to provide STD on Village Panchayat or Village Public Telephones.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.