

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006

EXTENDING SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TO VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

Singh Shri Dushyant

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to extend Satellite Communication System to all village panchayats in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance extended/proposed to be extended in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Satellite telephone connectivity is provided to only those villages in remote/inaccessible areas which cannot be easily connected via any other media (This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in naxalite infested areas etc.) Therefore the Government does not have any proposal to extend Satellite connectivity to all the village panchayats.

(b) In Rajasthan, 18 eligible villages will be connected through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Total support from USOF for these 18 DSPTs will be Rs. 33.75 lakh.