

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1527  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008  
WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether there is reduction in Government's interest in the expansion of communication services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether in rural areas, people have to wait for eight years after the registration for telephone connections; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No, Sir. In order to give more attention to telecom services in rural areas, Government has undertaken the following schemes:-
- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 uncovered villages under Bharat Nirman through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
  - (ii) Setting up of 7871 Sharable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from USOF (Phase-I)
  - (iii) Second Phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,049 additional tower to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas of the country is likely to be launched shortly.
  - (iv) For creation of general infrastructure for development of telephone facilities, Government has proposed to improve the Optical Fibre connectivity (OFC) network between the Block Headquarters and District Headquarters.
  - (v) Subsidy support through USOF for Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs).
- (b) & (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.