

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2355  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008  
PCO CONNECTIONS IN RURAL AREAS  
Mohale Shri Punnulal

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

- (a) whether people are facing difficulties in subscribing for telephone connections in rural areas and also for subscribing PCO connections at Panchayat level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the telephone sets being supplied alongwith the new connections are of poor quality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Following difficulties are generally faced in providing telephone connections in rural areas and also PCO connections at Panchayat level:-

- (i) Non availability of cable pair in some cases, especially in remote, hilly and thinly populated areas.
- (ii) Non availability of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) signal in some areas.
- (iii) Disturbed law and order situation.
- (iv) Damage to primary cable by roadways authorities at the time of digging for road widening affecting provision of new connections.

Despite these difficulties, Government is making following corrective measures to provide telephone connections in rural areas:-

- (i) In hilly areas, where laying of underground cable is not feasible, overhead lines are erected.
- (ii) Where the connection is not possible by laying underground cable or overhead lines, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) are installed to make the area feasible on WLL.
- (c)&(d) Telephone sets are being provided alongwith the new connections after inspection by the quality and assurance wing of BSNL.
- (e) Question does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.