

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3376

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008

TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN VILLAGES

Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai; Sai Shri Nand Kumar; Singh Shri Sugrib

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

(a) the number of villages in the country with a population of less than 100 persons which have been provided telephone facilities during each of the last three years and the current year particularly in the remote, thickly forested and naxalite infested areas; and

(b) the number of such villages in the country still deprived of the basic telephone facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Universal Service obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, laying in thick forests areas/naxalites effected areas. As on 31st October, 2008, 55,420 VPTs have been provided by BSNL.

(b) As per Cencus 2001, there are 60, 000 inhabited villages in the country which are yet to be provided with VPT facility. These villages are likely to be provided with VPT facility in next two years.