

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3810
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010
WIRELINE TECHNOLOGY IN VILLAGES
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked to the Universal Service Obligation Fund, Administrator to prepare a detailed project report on the need and cost for laying an Optical Fibre Cable network in rural areas to boost broadband usage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of villages in the country connected through wireline technology during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether a large number of villages in the country still remain to be connected;
- (e) if not, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) the time by which all the villages are likely to be connected with wireline or wireless technology in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USFO) has been requested to map all the existing Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) on a GIS platform within two months to get a better estimate of additional OFC required. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is to be prepared by USOF including the following:-

- (i) Estimation of growth of broadband connections in rural areas for next 20 years.
- (ii) Suggestion of the optimum depth to which OFC should be laid (blocks, large villages or all gram panchayats etc.) to provide adequate broadband speeds (2 Mbps) in rural areas and meet broadband requirements of all operators.
- (iii) Cost estimate for the project along-with economic rate of return calculations
- (iv) Phasing of project funding requirements from USOF and
- (v) System of implementation.

(c) 57,926 villages have been covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in the country during the last three years (2006-09). State-wise details are given in Annexure-I.

(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. As on 31-03-2010, out of total 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country, as per Census 2001, 24,216 villages are still to be covered with VPT facility. The remaining inhabited uncovered villages in the country will be provided with VPT facility by February, 2011. The State-wise details of uncovered villages are given in Annexure-II.