

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1337

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility to those villages having no telecom facility in a phased manner by February 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government also proposes to provide telephone facilities to all the gram panchayats in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of gram panchayats provided/to be provided with the telephone facilities in the country, State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (SOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for provision of Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in all the remaining inhabited villages as per Census 2001 irrespective of criteria of population, remoteness, accessibility, law & order problems by February, 2011. As on 30.06.2010, about 5.69 lakh villages out of 5.93 lakh inhabited villages, as per Census 2001, have been provided with VPT facility.

(d) to (f) With the provision of VPTs to all inhabited villages by February, 2011, all the gram panchayats will also be covered by telephone facilities.