

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1340
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
UNDERGROUND CABLE IN GRAM PANCHAYATS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) the location-wise number of gram panchayats connected through underground cable in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether complaints/irregularities have been reported in regard to laying of cable lines in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the Gram Panchayats despite laying cables therein alongwith the number of such Panchayats?

Answer

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

(a) As on 30.06.2010, 5,66,333 villages out of the 5,93,601 inhabited villages as per Census 2001 have been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL). Out of these, 1,92,649 VPTs have been provided on wireline.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into following two agreements with BSNL for provision of VPTs in the country:-

(i) Provision of 62,302 (Revised) Village Public Telephones (VPT) under Bharat Nirman in the country out of which 61,718 VPTs have been provided upto 30.06.2010 with such facility predominantly through wireless media as it has wider coverage.

(ii) Provision of 62443 Village Public Telephones (VPT) in the country in uncovered inhabited villages as per census 2001. Out of which 39,281 villages are covered with VPT facility up to 30.06.2010 with such facility predominantly through wireless as it has wider coverage.

A statement indicating the location-wise number of villages connected through underground cable during the last three years and the current year under these agreements is given in the Annexure.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) & (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(e) The VPT facility is extended to the villages using wireless / wireline technologies based on the techno-commercial feasibility / viability thereof.