

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
PROVISION OF VPT IN VILLAGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Village Public Telephone (VPT) installed in the country especially in backward areas, State-wise;
- (b) whether most of the villages in the said States are deprived of public telephone facilities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide VPTs in each of the villages particularly in far-flung villages of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No, Madam. As on 30.09.2010, out of a total of 5,93,601 inhabited villages, 5,71,170 villages i.e. 96.22% of the census 2001 inhabited revenue villages including in backward areas of the country have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). Only 4% of the villages are yet to be provided VPTs . The State-wise numbers of VPTs provided in Census 2001 inhabited revenue villages of country including those in backward areas are given in the Annexure.

(d) Following steps are being taken for provision of VPTs in far flung villages of the country:-

(i) VPTs under Bharat Nirman

Agreements were signed with M/s BSNL in November 2004 to provide subsidy support for provision of VPTs in 62302 no. of uncovered villages in the country excluding those villages having population less than 100, those lying in deep forests and those affected with insurgency. The provision of VPTs in these villages has been included as one of activities under Bharat Nirman Programme. As on 30.09.2010, 61850 i.e. 99.27% VPTs have been provided under this scheme.

(ii) Newly Identified VPTs

Reconciliation of the VPTs working in the inhabited villages as per Census 2001 was carried out taking into account the existing VPT and those provided under Bharat Nirman. All the remaining 62443 inhabited villages as on 01.10.2007 as per Census 2001 irrespective of criteria of population, remoteness, accessibility and law & order situations have been included for provision of VPTs with subsidy support from USO Fund under this scheme. As on 30.09.2010, 43526 VPTs out of the 62443 i.e. 69.70% VPTs have been provided under this scheme.