

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3009
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
PROVISION OF COMPUTERS IN RURAL AREAS
Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

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- (a) whether the use of personal computers in rural areas of the country especially in Himachal Pradesh and other hilly States is not upto the required level;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to enhance the use of personal computers in rural areas of the country?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. As per Manufacturers' Association for Information Technology (MAIT), the national average of P.C. penetration in the country is 3.2% by the end of 2009. The P.C. penetration in rural areas in the country, especially in Himachal Pradesh and other hilly States is below the national average.
- (b): The cost of P.C., access charge, non-availability of suitable content in the local language, tools and interfaces and applications for the rural populace are some of the major reasons for low penetration of P.C. in rural areas of the country.
- (c): Details of the steps taken/being taken to enhance the use of personal computers in rural areas of the country are enclosed in Annexure.