

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3357

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2011

TELEPHONE CONNECTIVITY TO VILLAGES

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

(a) the number of villages in the country having telephone connectivity alongwith those not covered so far, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which all the villages in the country are likely to be covered and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) As on 31.01.2011, out of 5,93,601 inhabited villages 5,74,673 villages in the country have telephone connectivity through Village Public Telephones (VPTs).State-wise details of VPTs are given in the Annexure.

(b) For provision of VPTs, two Agreements were signed by M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. The first was on November 2004 to provide subsidy support for provision of VPTs in 62302 number 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 second Agreement was signed with BSNL on 27.02.2009 for provision of VPTs in 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. The remaining villages are expected to be covered through VPTs by February, 2012.