

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:23

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

TELEPHONE CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL/BACKWARD AREAS

Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

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

- (a) the details of the villages, gram panchayats and districts in the country which are yet to be connected with telephone facilities, State-wise, separately for basic and mobile facilities;
- (b) the action taken by the Government to provide telephone connectivity to these villages/districts and the funds earmarked for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced or proposes to introduce a suitable alternative/new technology for telephone connectivity in rural/backward/remote/forest regions of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas/villages covered so far by installation of such technology, State-wise; and
- (e) the time by which all the villages in the country are likely to be provided with telephone connectivity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.23 FOR 23RD NOVEMBER, 2011 REGARDING TELEPHONE CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL/BACKWARD AREAS.

(a) The details of villages which are yet to be connected with basic and mobile telephone facilities are given in the Annexure-I & II.

(b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has undertaken the following activities to provide telephone connectivity to these villages:

a) Village Public Telephones

As on 31.10.2011, about 5,79,775 villages i.e. 97.67% of the Census 2001 inhabited revenue villages have been covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). VPTs are being provided in remaining inhabited revenue villages under ongoing USOF schemes given at(i) and (ii) below:

(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 (revised from 66822) 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 31.10.2011, 62032 i.e. 99.56% 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. Agreements in this regard were signed with BSNL on 27.02.2009. As per the terms and conditions of the agreement the VPTs installed between the periods 01.10.2007 to 26.02.2009 are also eligible for subsidy support. As on 31.10.2011, 52047 VPTs out of the 62443 i.e. 83.35%VPTs have been provided under this scheme.

iii) Replacement of MARR based VPTs (MARR-A & MARR-B)

Agreements were signed with M/s BSNL in the year 2003 for replacement of 1,85,121 number of VPTs with reliable technologies,

which were earlier working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology and installed before 01.04.2002. These included 47075 MARR VPTs already replaced before 30.06.2003 (MARR-B) and 138046 MARR VPTs to be replaced from 01.07.2003 onwards (MARR-A). A total number of 1,84,741 MARR VPTs(99.79%)have been replaced as on 31.10.2011. BSNL has intimated that remaining about 380 MARR VPTs are to be replaced by Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (DSPTs). Rs 1650 crores have been earmarked for various schemes of USOF for the current financial year out of which Rs. 1430 crores has been disbursed till 30.09.2011.

(c) & (d) : Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been continuously expanding its CDMA(Code Division Multiplex Access)/GSM(Global System for Mobile communication) networks to cover the remaining villages with telephone facilities, which fall in far-flung, thick forested, naxal affected/disturbed, inaccessible and remote areas. Also, DSPT's (Digital Satellite Phone Terminal) are being used to cover those villages where no other network exist.

(e) : All the remaining villages are likely to be provided with telephone connectivity by May, 2012.

Annexure - I

Details of villages yet to be connected with basic telephone facilities:

S.No. Name of Circle No. of Inhabited Villages No. of Villages yet to be connected
as per Census 2001 with basic telephone facilities

1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	501	151
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	26,613	1,772
3	ASSAM	25,124	832
4	BIHAR	39,032	106
5	JHARKHAND	29,354	547
6	GUJARAT	18,159	97
7	HARYANA	6,764	86
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	17,495	89
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	6,417	64
10	KARNATAKA	27,481	33
11	KERALA	1,372	0
12	MADHYA PRADESH	52,117	131
13	CHHATISGARH	19,744	1,574
14	MAHARASHTRA	41,442	821
15	NORTH EAST-I		

MEGHALAYA	5,782	900
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MIZORAM	707	3
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TRIPURA	858	0
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16 NORTH EAST-II

ARUNACHAL PRADESH	3,863	1,268
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NAGALAND	1,278	15
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MANIPUR	2,315	172
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17 ODISHA	47,529	2,671
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18 PUNJAB	12,301	236
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19 RAJASTHAN	39,753	343
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20 TAMIL NADU

TAMIL NADU	13,837	0
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CHENNAI	1,655	0
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21 UTTAR PRADESH (E)	74,161	40
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22 UTTAR PRADESH (W)	23781	152
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23 UTTRANCHAL	15,761	396
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24 WEST BENGAL

WEST BENGAL	37062	980
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SIKKIM	450	21
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KOLKATA TD	893	326
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Total	5,93,601	13,826
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ANNEXURE-II

DETAILS OF VILLAGES YET TO BE CONNECTED WITH MOBILE TELEPHONE FACILITIES

STATE NO. OF VILLAGES YET TO BE CONNECTED WITH MOBILE
TELEPHONE FACILITIES

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR 140

ANDHRA PRADESH 1061

ARUNACHAL PRADESH 2215

ASSAM 1318

BIHAR 185

CHHATTISGARH 3302

DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI 6

GOA 3

GUJRAT 458

HIMACHAL PRADESH 4141

JAMMU & KASHMIR 666

JHARKHAND 3316

KARNATAKA 226

LAKSHADWEEP 1

MADHYA PRADESH 5843

MAHARASHTRA 1978

MANIPUR 201

MEGHALAYA 1252

MIZORAM 127

NAGALAND 145

ODISHA 7573

PUNJAB 7

RAJASTHAN 1133

SIKKIM 9

TAMIL NADU 38

TRIPURA 19

UTTAR PRADESH 377

UTTARANCHAL 1115

WEST BENGAL 329

TOTAL 37184