

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:156

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009

RURAL COMMUNITY PHONES

Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausaheb

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

- (a) whether Rural Community Phones (RCPs) are provided in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any target for providing RCPs in the rural areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the achievements made in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(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. 156 FOR 30TH NOVEMBER, 2009.

(a) & (b) Yes, Modam. Rural Community Phones (RCPs) are being provided with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to those villages whose population is more than 2000 and which do not have a Public Call Office (PCO) facility. The State-wise details of RCPs to be provided are at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) Yes, Modam. USOF has signed agreements in September 2004 for providing 40,705 RCPs in a phased manner (20%, 40% and 40%) over a period of three years by September 2007 with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (21,958) and Reliance Communications Limited (18,747). Subsequently the roll out period was extended till 31.3.2009.

(e) The State-wise achievements made in this regard are at Annexure-II.