

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1517

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

PUBLIC TELEPHONES IN VILLAGES

Patle Kamla Devi ;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao;Tandon Shri Lal Ji

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

- (a) the number of villages in the country including Chhattisgarh which are provided with public telephone facility as on date;
- (b) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in all the villages including backward districts of the country;
- (c) whether the Government has not been successful in achieving the targets;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new scheme to provide the said facility; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a): As on 31.07.2013, 5,82,185 villages i.e. 98.07% of the inhabited revenue villages as per Census 2001 have been covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility, with financial / subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). VPT facility has been provided in 18,214 out the 19,744 inhabited villages in Chhattisgarh. State-wise details of VPTs provided are given in Annexure.

(b) VPT facility is expected to be provided in remaining inhabited revenue villages of the country through on-going USOF scheme of VPTs in newly identified uncovered villages as per Census 2001, for which rollout period is up to September 2013.

(c) & (d) 98.07% of the inhabited revenue villages as per Census 2001 have already been covered with VPT facility, with financial/ subsidy support from USOF.

Reasons for delay in provisioning of VPTs in remaining villages, as submitted by BSNL [Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited], who is implementing USOF funded scheme for VPTs are:

# Remote & tough terrain

# Lack of proper transport infrastructure

# Poor/no availability of electricity

# Areas affected by insurgency

# Natural calamities

# VPT facility is feasible in many villages only through satellite technology and there has been delay in procurement of Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).

(e) & (f) Does not arise in view of (b) above.