

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1451
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH

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

- (a) the number of Village Public Telephones being maintained through funding by the Universal Service Obligation Fund, State- wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that such VPTs are not being maintained properly;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that VPTs are properly maintained; and
- (d) the details of authorities responsible for maintaining VPTs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI J. PRADHAN)

(a) The number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) being maintained through funding by Universal Service Obligation Fund State-wise is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. The VPTs are generally maintained satisfactorily by adhering to the following maintenance routines:

- 1) Testing of VPTs is being carried out daily from exchange to identify the faulty VPTs and action is taken to attend to it immediately.
- 2) Testing of MARR lines are carried out daily from the Base Station.
- 3) Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low reading is taken as an indication that the system is not performing properly and is specially checked.

(d) Respective Basic Service Operators providing VPTs in an area are responsible for maintaining VPTs in their areas.

ANNEXURE

STATE-WISE CONSOLIDATION OF NO. OF VPTs (Funded by USO Fund)

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Circle	QE 31.3.2003
1	Andaman & Nicobar	201
2	Andhra Pradesh	24346
3	Assam	18040
4	Bihar including Jharkhand	64772
5	Gujarat	14652
6	Himachal Pradesh	16565
7	Haryana	6853
8	Jammu & Kashmir	4098
9	Karnataka	28452
10	Maharashtra including Mumbai and Goa	33507
11	Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh	51880
12	North East	3725
13	Orissa	40811
14	Punjab	12470
15	Rajasthan	22628
16	Tamil Nadu	19256
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	75208
18	Uttar Pradesh (West) including Uttaranchal	33133
19	West Bengal including Kolkata	36568
	Grand Total	507165