

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:29  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003  
PERFORMANCE OF VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONE SCHEME  
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the Village-Public-Telephone-Scheme has proved a failure;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the State-wise targets fixed and achieved in this regard during the last three years;
- (d) the reasons for failure to achieve the targets; and
- (e) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the rural telephone services?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(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 RESPONSE TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 29 FOR 3RD DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF VILLAGE-PUBLIC-TELEPHONE SCHEME.

- (a) No, Sir. Out of 6,07,491 villages, Village Public Telephone (VPT) has been provided in 5,17,814 villages as on 31.10.2003.
- (b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.
- (c) The State-wise targets fixed and achieved for Village Public Telephone (VPT) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Private Operators during the last three years is furnished at Annexure-I & Annexure-II respectively.
- (d) The shortfall in achieving the VPT targets is due to the following reasons:-
  - (i) After discontinuation of procurement of MARR system in 1998 there was no proven technology available for the provision of VPTs in the country. During this period, most of the VPTs were provided on existing spare capacity of MARR system and landlines. WLL technology could be inducted into the network after field trial only during 2001 for providing VPTs.
  - (ii) Most of the VPTs in North-Eastern Region and Jammu and Kashmir have been planned on WLL technology. Part of WLL equipment planned in these areas was diverted to other needy circles as permission was not available for commissioning WLL system in these areas due to security reasons till August, 2002.
  - (iii) VPTs can be provided in some of the remote and inaccessible villages only by using satellite media, which is costly.
  - (iv) Private Operators have been reluctant to provide VPTs since the VPTs are non-remunerative.
- (e) The following measures are being taken by the Government to improve the rural telecom service:-
  - (i) Relief and concessions have been extended to the Government Operator (BSNL) to spread rural telephony.
  - (ii) WLL technology is being used to improve reliability and faster roll out of rural telephony.
  - (iii) USO Fund is being established for implementing Universal Service Support Policy to provide rural telephone access.

(iv) About 8000 villages have been covered by the introduction of Gramin Sanchar Sewak Scheme.

(v) VPTs working on MARR technology are being replaced with proven technology.

(vi) The Government has recovered LD (Liquidated Damages) charges from private operators on account of delay in providing VPTs. Government has also asked them to complete the unfilled committed roll out obligations against submission of additional performance Bank Guarantee.

#### ANNEXURE-I

#### CIRCLE-WISE VPTs TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

(BSNL)

Sl. No.	Circles	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	8	8	0	0	4	1
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	0	4	0	18	0	0
3	ASSAM	5000	336	4135	2501	1000	1007
4	BIHAR	24651	2276	17829	15612	9061	9061
5	JHARKHAND	9840		9980	9645	9197	
6	GUJARAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	HARYANA	4	4	0	0	0	0
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	4000	4002	4948	4507	205	205
9	J & K	2000	229	842	50	100	177
10	KARNATAKA	1265	1255	10	4	6	6
11	KERALA	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	MADHYA PRADESH	5860	1527	315	312	3	0
13	CHHATHISGARH	2980		3677	216	248	
14	MAHARASHTRA	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	NORTH EAST-I	5110	309	1547	368	904	389
16	NORTH EAST-II	761		147	200	135	
17	ORISSA	14000	2037	12850	10392	5714	5078
18	PUNJAB	0	564	0	0	0	0
19	RAJASTHAN	0	98	0	33	0	0
20	TAMIL NADU	55	53	1	1	0	0
21	UTTAR PRADESH (E)	18000	14643	10085	8179	6793	6651
22	UTTAR PRADESH (W)	9000	3167	2239	2402	0	0
23	UTTARANCHAL		2268	2162	1463	1627	
24	WEST BENGAL	11000	3805	13200	10357	4125	3147
25	CALCUTTA	47	0	53	53	0	0
26	DELHI	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	100000	34317	83903	70755	39439	36929

#### ANNEXURE-II

#### CIRCLE-WISE VPTs TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

(PRIVATE OPERATORS)

S.N	Circle	2000- 2001- 2002-2003			#Target
		2001	2002	Achievement	
1	Madhya Pradesh	348	-	-	16500
2	Andhra Pradesh	5	102	1207	9635
3	Maharashtra	-	160	1859	25760

4	Gujarat	-	2	3937	8635
5	Rajasthan	169	40	807	31834
6	Punjab	-	20	811	5442

Total                    522    324    8621

# The target was to be met by 30.9.1998 in case of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30.9.99 in case of Maharashtra. For Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan the target was to be completed by 30.9.2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively. The target was subsequently extended upto December, 2003. However, consequent upon migration to Unified Access Service Licence, the obligation gets modified to coverage of 50% of District HQ or any other town in a District in lieu of, instead of providing a fixed number of telephone connections including VPT.