

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:149  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003  
TELEPHONE FACILITIES TO GRAM PANCHAYATS  
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether all the village Panchayats across the country have been provided with telephone facilities;
- (b) if so, the total number of village panchayats which have not been provided telephone facilities alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone facilities to the village panchayats?

**Answer**

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Details of 7189 Village Panchayats which have not been provided with telecom facility by BSNL are given in the enclosed Annexure. Reasons for not providing telecom facilities in these Village Panchayats are as under :

(i) Panchayat lying in remote and isolated areas have been planned on satellite technology. Satellite telephones shall be provided subject to availability of resources.

(ii) Earlier the permission for commissioning of WLL system in North Eastern region and J&K Telecom circles was not available due to security reasons. In the meantime, part of the WLL equipment was diverted to other needy Circles. The permission has now been given for commissioning of WLL System and fresh WLL equipment has already been ordered.

(c) Following steps have been taken to provide better telecom facilities to Village Panchayats:

i) Village Public Telephone (VPT) holders have been asked to book their faults in office of JTO in -charge of concerned Telephone Exchange.

ii) Testing of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) is being carried out daily from Exchange to identify the faulty Village Public Telephone(VPT).

iii) Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low meter reading is taken as an indication of the system not performing properly.

iv) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology have been decided to be replaced mainly by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology, as these were not performing satisfactorily.

v) The Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones have been provided with a rechargeable battery back up of two hours. Subscribers are facing difficulty in charging the battery back up adequately because of erratic and prolonged power cuts in rural areas. There is a proposal to augment the battery capacity.

vi) The performance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided is monitored regularly.

vii) Proposal for awarding post warranty annual maintenance contract for providing maintenance support is in progress.

**ANNEXURE**

**VILLAGE Panchayats without Telecom. Facilities to be provided by BSNL**

Sl. No.	Circle	Pachayat Villages without telecom facilities
1	Assam	391
2	Himachal Pradesh	18
3	Jammu & Kashmir	547
4	Jharkhand	156
5	North East-I	619
6	North East-II	4434

7	Orissa	133
8	Uttaranchal	891
Total		7189

Note : BSNL has already provided telecom facility in village panchayats of its share in Andhra Pradesh , Chhatisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan Telecom. Circle.