

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
REVIEW OF VPT
VIRENDRA KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Village Public Telephone (VPT) in various States;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof and the remedial measures to be taken, if any, shortcomings have been found; and
- (c) the date of last review alongwith the period covered under it?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The circle-wise working of the VPTs is reviewed every month.
- (b) The VPTs provided on MARR technology have not been performing well. Since January 2003 to September, 2003, the average fault rate of MARR based VPTs has been 36.77% in comparison to overall average fault rate of 13.77%. The VPTs provided on MARR technology were decided to be replaced progressively mainly by WLL technology. BSNL has already replaced 54,971 MARR based VPTs as on 31.03.2003. BSNL has planned to replace 80,000 MARR based VPTs during the current year subject to the availability of resources. 13,921 MARR based VPTs have been replaced during 01.04.03 to 31.10.03. And private operators have replaced 879 MARR based VPTs as on 31.10.2003.
- (c) The last review for the month of September, 2003 was completed by 28.10.2003.