

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1288
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
VPTs IN ORISSA
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) the number of Village Public Telephones installed in Orissa during the Ninth Plan period;
- (b) the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the VPT installed in the Scheduled districts in the State are very less than the developed districts in the State;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken in this regard during the Tenth Plan to remove this regional imbalance?

Answer

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

- (a) 19175 Village Public Telephone (VPTs) have been installed in the State of Orissa during Ninth Plan period.
- (b) Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan period is to provide 10295 VPTs excluding 701 depopulated villages and 636 villages lying in thick forest or naxalite infested areas etc. and till 31.10.2003, 5190 VPTs have already been provided.
- (c) to (e): Government has planned to provide telecom facility to all the revenue villages of all scheduled as well as less developed districts of the State. Satellite based VPTs are planned for hilly, remote and inaccessible locations for which tenders have been invited and allotment of fund from Government is awaited.