

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000  
TELEPHONES UNDER SOLAR TOWER  
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether telephones based on Solar Towers system are not working properly in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to replace the said system by wireless in local loop (WLL) system in the country particularly in Marathwada region ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to develop Sanchar Sewa Ksndras/Sanchar Dhabas at every Gram Panchayat in order to achieve the target to provide telephone lines in every village of Maharashtra by year 2001?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The performance of Solar Towers (MARR) systems deployed for VPTs in rural areas in the country is not very satisfactory.
- (b) The status of Solar Tower (MARR) VPTs in the country is as follows :
  - (i) Total number of MARR commissioned - 211504.
  - (ii) Total number of MARR faulty as on 30.06.2000 - 43933.
  - (iii) Percentage of faulty MARR - 15.66%.

(c)&(d): Yes Sir, the Government is taking steps to replace unrepairable MARRVPTs with WLL technology in the present financial year upto the extent of 1,10,000 nationwide.

Marathwada region has been allotted 10 nos. BSC and 80 Nos. BS(40,000 lines).It is proposed to install WLL system in all SSAs and SDCAs progressively. 50% of MARR VPTs will be replaced during the current financial year and the balance will be replaced next year.

(e) It is proposed to open 1000 Panchyat Sanchar Sewa Kendras(PSSK) in the country during current financial year. Another 1000 such Kendras are proposed to be open during 2001-2002. During the current year the target for opening such Kendras in Maharashtra is 85. The department has also decided to open Internet Dhabas in Block Headquarters before 31st March,2001.