

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2050
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO VILLAGES IN ASSAM
Chaliha Shri Kirip

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

- (a) the number of villages where telephone connections are proposed to be provided in Assam;
- (b) whether a large number of complaints have been received by the Government regarding non-functioning of village telephones in Assam;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Sir, in addition to clearing waiting list of feasible cases in villages where telephone facility already exists, additional 5021 uncovered villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility during 2004-05.
- (b) Majority of complaints received pertain to non-functioning of village telephones working on MARR System.
- (c) Total number of faulty MARR telephones in villages as on 31.03.2003 and 31.03.2004 were 6523 and 8072 respectively.
- (d) It is planned to replace 5435 village telephones working on MARR system by WLL based technology by 31.03.2005.