

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:203  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005  
COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN VILLAGES OF RAJASTHAN  
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

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

- (a) the number of villages in Rajasthan where the communication service is available at present;
- (b) the time by which the communication service would be provided in the remaining villages;
- (c) whether the rural communication service has been entrusted to the private sector; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed by the private sector companies?

**Answer**

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

- (a) As on 30th September, 2005, 27,297 villages in Rajasthan have been provided with telephone facilities.
- (b) The remaining uncovered villages are likely to be covered by November, 2007. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas etc.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. While Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has awarded the work of providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) & Rural Community Phones (RCPs) as well as individual Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 181 SDCAs to BSNL, M/s Reliance Infocom Limited (RIL) and Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) have been entrusted with providing individual RDELs in 5 and 80 SDCAs respectively in Rajasthan. RDELs are to be provided on demand in these SDCAs from January 2006.