

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:865

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006

TELEPHONE FACILITY TO PANCHAYATS IN MAHARASHTRA

Chauri Shri Babu Hari;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

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

- (a) whether telephone facility has been provided or being provided in all the Panchayats of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Panchayats where said facility has not been provided so far; and
- (d) the time by which all the Panchayats are likely to be connected by phone?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 6,441 remaining unconnected villages in Maharashtra. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in thick forest/naxalite infested area etc. Out of these 6,441 eligible villages, 2,189 villages have been provided with VPTs as on 31st December, 2005.

(c) & (d) As on 31st December, 2005, 4,252 eligible villages remain to be provided with VPTs in Maharashtra. These villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.