

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2306  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006  
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN UTTARANCHAL  
Khanduri AVSM,Maj.Gen.(Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra

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

- (a) the number of villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttaranchal, which have been provided telephone facilities so far;
- (b) the number of villages in these districts which are yet to be provided such facilities separately, district-wise;
- (c) the total funds required for the purpose in these districts;
- (d) whether due to shortage of electricity to energise telephone exchanges in these districts which are not functioning properly;
- (e) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether any time frame has been fixed for providing telephone facility in these district; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) A statement indicating the number of villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttaranchal which have been provided with telephone facilities and number of eligible villages which are yet to be provided with such facilities is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of villages with VPT facility	No. of eligible villages without VPT facility
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1.	Pauri	2,215	1,063
2.	Chamoli	638	512
3.	Rudrapryag	349	80
	Total	3,202	1,655

This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. An amount of Rs.28 crore is required to provide Village Public Telephones(VPTs) in 1,655 unconnected eligible villages in these three districts of Uttaranchal.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. Alternative stand by arrangements are in place in the telephone exchanges in the event of any power disruption.

(f) & (g) The unconnected eligible villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttaranchal will be provided with VPT facility progressively by November 2007.