

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2874
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
PRIME MINISTER S RURAL COMMUNICATION SCHEME
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

(a) whether any time bound scheme is being implemented under the 'Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme' to provide telephone connections in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of villages where telephone service has been provided under this scheme upto December, 2005, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the 66,822 remaining unconnected villages as on November 2004, is a component of 'Bharat Nirman' scheme. Under the VPT scheme, these VPTs are to be provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) by November 2007. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest/naxalite infested areas etc. This scheme is funded by Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF). The State-wise number of these villages is given in the Annexure.

(c) State-wise details of number of villages covered under this scheme till 31-12-2005 is also given in the Annexure.

Annexure

State-wise number of uncovered villages and villages provided with VPTs (As on 31-12-2005)

S1 Name of the Total No. VPTs
Service Area of uncovered provided
villages

1. Andaman and Nicobar	0	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	1,074	237
3. Assam	8,931	2,366
4. Bihar	0	0
5. Jharkhand	1,694	30
6. Gujarat	4,144	1,965
7 Haryana	0	0
8. Himachal Pradesh	1,002	234
9. Jammu and Kashmir	1,755	222
10 Karnataka	0	0
11 Kerala	0	0
12 Madhya Pradesh	11,894	4,402
13 Chhattisgarh	5,043	892
14 Maharashtra	6,441	2,189
15 North East-I	2,128	77
16 North East-II	1,550	30
17 Orissa	4,899	0
18 Punjab	0	0
19 Rajasthan	12,386	4,332
20 Tamil Nadu	0	0
21 Uttar Pradesh(East)	0	0
22 Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0
23 Uttaranchal	3,881	206
24 West Bengal	0	0

TOTAL: 66,822 17,182