

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SPACE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1200  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006  
GRAMSAT PROGRAMME  
Singh Shri Sugrib

**Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has initiated GRAMSAT programme to provide communication networks at the State level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the states in which the programme is currently in operation;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to cover the remaining States under the GRAMSAT programme;
- (e) whether the network has been expanded and upgraded in Orissa; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b)&(c) GRAMSAT networks have been established in Gujarat, MP, Orissa, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Nicobar, Rajasthan and West Bengal.
- (d) The Government has enlarged the scope of GRAMSAT network to cover education, medicine and natural resource information termed as VRC (Village Resource Centre) and is being expanded to cover all the States.
- (e)&(f) Yes, Sir. Initially GRAMSAT network in Orissa was in a broadcast mode. Now it is expanded to have interactivity to cover all Districts and Blocks.