

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1148
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN VILLAGE PANCHAYATS
Jogi Shri Ajit

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

- (a) whether the maximum number of telephones installed in Village Panchayats of the country normally remain out of order and take months to make them functional;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any step has been taken by the Government to ensure that the telephones installed in the villages work properly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d) As per agreements signed between Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/other Private Service Providers for operation and maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs), the Service Provider shall ensure the Quality of Service (QoS) as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. Inspections are carried out at field level to ensure proper installation and functioning of VPTs in villages. Further, as per agreements, the VPTs that remain faulty for more than 7 days in a quarter are not eligible for disbursement of full subsidy from USOF and subsidy payable is proportionately reduced for the total number of days the VPTs remain faulty during the quarter. In case, a VPT remains faulty for 45 days or more during the quarter, no subsidy for the entire quarter for that VPT is disbursed. VPTs that register no incremental meter reading/call or remain disconnected due to non-payment during an entire quarter do not qualify for subsidy support for that quarter.