

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3688

ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN NAXAL AFFECTED AREAS

Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar;Shukla Smt. Karuna

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

- (a) whether the people in naxal affected areas in the country have refused to take telephone connections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There have been instances of refusal to accept telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in about 440 naxal affected villages in Jharkhand and 1409 villages in Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle only. However, it is not feasible to quantify such refusals, as the applicants do not communicate such reasons in writing.

(c) Every effort is being made to persuade the applicants to accept telephone connections and matter is taken up with the local administration also.