

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

PROVISION OF TELECOM FACILITIES

Bali Ram Dr. ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Patel Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Telephone/Mobile connections in all locations of the country especially in remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which all the locations of the country including Maharashtra are likely to be connected with the said telecom connections?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The villages in the country are being provided Village Public Telephone (VPT) connections as per the directives of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), DOT. Out of total 5,93,601 Inhabited villages in the country as per Census 2001, Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility has been provided in 5,67,658 villages up to 31.01.2010 including 3433 villages covered by Private Basic Service Operators. Circle wise detail of villages covered with Village Public telephone facility by BSNL is given in Annexure-I. BSNL has planned to provide Mobile connections in all the Circles in the country including remote areas. The plan for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given in Annexure-II.

BSNL is having following agreements with USOF DOT for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in villages; as

(i) BSNL has entered into an agreement with USOF, DOT, New Delhi to provide 62,302 (Revised) Village Public Telephones (VPT) under Bharat Nirman in the country out of which 61,526 VPTs have been provided upto 31.01.2010. Remaining villages are being covered progressively.

(ii) BSNL has entered into another agreement with USOF, DOT, New Delhi in February, 2009 to provide 62443 Village Public Telephones (VPT) in the country in uncovered inhabited villages as per census 2001 out of which 40,758 villages are covered with VPT facility upto 31.01.2010 including 3433 villages covered by PBSO. Balance accessible, undisputed, undisturbed inhabited villages including Maharashtra Villages are planned to be covered by February, 2011.

MTNL is providing Telephone / Mobile connections in entire licensed service area of Delhi & Mumbai and mobile service in adjoining areas also as specified by Department of Telecommunication. MTNL does not provide services in rural areas.