

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology**

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**Telephone Connectivity to Villages**

As on 31.01.2011, out of 5,93,601 inhabited villages 5,74,673 villages in the country have telephone connectivity through Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

For provision of VPTs, two Agreements were signed by M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. The first was on November 2004 to provide subsidy support for provision of VPTs in 62302 number of uncovered villages in the country excluding those villages having population less than 100, those lying in deep forests and those affected with insurgency. The second Agreement was signed with BSNL on 27.02.2009 for provision of VPTs in all the remaining 62443 inhabited villages as on 01.10.2007 as per Census 2001 irrespective of criteria of population, remoteness, accessibility and law & order situations. The remaining villages are expected to be covered through VPTs by February, 2012.

**State-wise numbers of VPTs provisioned as on 31.01.2011 including VPTs under**

**Bharat Nirman and VPTs in newly identified villages**

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<b>Name of the State</b>	<b>No. of inhabited revenue villages as per Census 2001</b>	<b>No. of VPTs provided till Jan. 2011</b>
Andaman & Nicobar	501	341
Andhra Pradesh	26613	24608
Assam	25124	24060
Bihar	39032	38900
Jharkhand	29354	28774
Gujarat	18159	18059
Haryana	6764	6678
Himachal Pradesh	17495	17368
Jammu & Kashmir	6417	6297
Karnataka	27481	27441
Kerala	1372	1372
Madhya Pradesh	52117	51986
Chhattisgarh	19744	18138
Maharashtra	41442	40585
Meghalaya (NE-I)	5782	3782
Mizoram (NE-I)	707	704
Tripura (NE-I)	858	858
Arunachal Pradesh (NE-II)	3863	1863
Manipur (NE-II)	2315	1263

Nagaland (NE-II)	1278	2083
Orissa	47529	44010
Punjab	12301	12064
Rajasthan	39753	39410
Tamilnadu (TN Circle)	13837	13834
Chennai Metro	1655	1655
Uttar Pradesh (UP East Circle)	76993	74121
Uttar Pradesh (UP West Circle)	20949	23629
Uttarakhand	15761	15226
West Bengal (WB Circle)	37062	34568
Calcutta Metro	893	567
Sikkim (WB Circle)	450	429
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>593601</b>	<b>574673</b>

This reply was given by Shri Sachin Pilot, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in response to a question in Parliament.

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