

(e) whether Government will conduct a survey to ascertain their plights and poverty during the current financial year;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission do not estimate poverty for different occupational categories of population and hence the estimates of poverty are not available for farmers separately.

(c) and (d) According to National Sample Survey 59th Round (Jan-December 2003) the average monthly income of farm households from all sources, i.e., wages, cultivation, farming of animals and non-farm business, was Rs. 2115. The National Crime Records Bureau which compiles data on suicides for various professions does not identify such suicides by agrarian causes.

(e) to (g) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to States/UTs for conducting the Below Poverty Line Census to identify rural households living below the poverty line.

The Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 which consists of BPL Census for the Twelfth Five Year Plan in rural areas has been launched in June, 2011.

#### **Telephone and mobile phone connectivity**

3310. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages and urban areas in the country are yet to be connected with mobile telephones;

(b) if so, the details of such villages and urban areas;

(c) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges likely to be installed in the country; and

(d) the action taken by Government to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) 37,184 villages in the country are yet to be

connected with mobile connectivity as on March, 2011. The details of such villages is enclosed as statement-I (See below). As on 31st July, 2011 BSNL has covered all DHQ and 33620 cities/towns with GSM based cellular services.

(c) Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7353 number of infrastructure sites/towers (revised from 7871) in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there was no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Villages or cluster of villages having population of 2000 or more and not having mobile coverage were taken into consideration for installation of the tower under this scheme including hilly, tribal & naxal affected areas. Infrastructure Providers have reported that 7289 towers i.e. about 99.13% have been set up as on 31.07.2011 under this scheme. Details of already commissioned towers and remaining mobile towers under the scheme, which are likely to be installed in the country are given in Statement-II (See below).

In view of large scale churn of landline connections mainly due to customer shift towards mobile, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has no major plans to install new telephone exchanges in the country. However, based on requirement, spare capacity is being redeployed from "No Demand to Demand area" by the telecom circles.

(d) As on 31.07.2011, about 5,79,486 villages i.e. 97.62% of the Census 2001 inhabited revenue villages have been covered with telephone connectivity through Village Public Telephones (VPTs). For provisioning of VPTs in remaining inhabited revenue villages, the details of ongoing USOF schemes are as follows at (i) and (ii):

**(i) VPTs under Bharat Nirman**

Agreements were signed with M/s BSNL in November, 2004 to provide subsidy support for provision of VPTs in 62302 (revised from 66822) no. 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 provision of VPTs in these villages has been included as one of activities under Bharat Nirman Programme. As on 31.07.2011, 62030 i.e. 99.56% VPTs have been provided under this scheme.

(ii) **Newly Identified VPTs**

Reconciliation of the VPTs working in the inhabited villages as per Census 2001 was carried out taking into account the existing VPT and those provided under Bharat Nirman. 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 have been included for provision of VPTs with subsidy support from USO Fund under this scheme. Agreements in this regard were signed with BSNL on 27.02.2009. As per the terms and conditions of the agreement the VPTs installed between the periods 01.10.2007 to 26.02.2009 are also eligible for subsidy support. As on 31.07.2011, 51773 VPTs out of the 62443 i.e. 82.91% VPTs have been provided under this scheme.

***Statement-I***

*Summary of Uncovered Villages as on March, 2011*

State Name	Number of uncovered villages
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	140
Andhra Pradesh	1061
Arunachal Pradesh	2215
Assam	1318
Bihar	185
Chhattisgarh	3302
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6
Goa	3
Gujarat	458
Himachal Pradesh	4141
Jammu & Kashmir	666
Jharkhand	3316
Karnataka	226
Lakshadweep	1

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	5843
Maharashtra	1978
Manipur	201
Meghalaya	1252
Mizoram	127
Nagaland	145
Orissa	7573
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	1133
Sikkim	9
Tamil Nadu	38
Tripura	19
Uttar Pradesh	377
Uttaranchal	1115
West Bengal	329
TOTAL	37184

**Statement-II**

*Commissioning status of Towers (State-wise) as on 31.07.2011 under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF in rural & remote areas of country*

Sl. No.	State	Number of Districts	Number of Mobile Towers to be set up	Number of Towers Commissioned	Remaining Towers
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	22	596	596	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	12	67	61	6

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	20	87	87	0
4	Bihar	37	453	451	2
5	Chhattisgarh	16	553	553	0
6	Gujarat	4	59	59	0
7	Haryana	8	12	12	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	11	258	258	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	12	81	81	0
10	Jharkhand	18	273	273	0
11	Karnataka	26	381	381	0
12	Kerala	11	46	42	4
13	Madhya Pradesh	45	933	933	0
14	Maharashtra	33	956	956	0
15	Manipur	9	98	61	37
16	Meghalaya	7	107	107	0
17	Mizoram	8	43	37	6
18	Nagaland	7	51	43	8
19	Orissa	30	434	434	0
20	Punjab	3	14	14	0
21	Rajasthan	32	403	403	0
22	Sikkim	3	6	6	0
23	Tamil Nadu	27	327	327	0
24	Tripura	4	115	115	0
25	Uttar Pradesh	66	653	652	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
26	Uttaranchal	13	184	184	0
27	West Bengal	16	163	163	0
	TOTAL	500	7353	7289	64

Note: The number of towers is subject to change based on actual field survey and coverage achieved thereof as per the terms and conditions of the Agreements.

#### NDNC Registry

3311. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of landline and mobile subscribers in the country, State-wise and service provider-wise;
- (b) the date when the National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) came into effect;
- (c) the total number of subscribers who have registered themselves with NDNC Registry;
- (d) whether it is a fact that TRAI has issued fresh regulations on NDNC Registry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, the number of landline and mobile subscribers in the country service provider-wise and service area wise (as on 30th June, 2011) is given in Statement-I and II. State-wise information in this regard is not being maintained.

(b) The National Do Not Call Registry (NDNC) came into operation w.e.f. 12th October, 2007.

(c) As per the information provided by TRAI, 130.21 million subscribers are registered with National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) as on 25th August, 2011. The National Do Not Call Register has been renamed as National Customer Preference Register (NCPR) w.e.f. 10th Feb., 2011.