

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to bring out a legislation that will provide protection to individuals in case their privacy is breached through unlawful means. The drafting of the legislation is at preliminary stage and details of the legislation are yet to be finalized.

**Public telephone facilities in rural areas in Gujarat**

2703. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide public telephone facilities including Fax/STD/ISD etc. in the rural areas of Patan/Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility has already been provided in all the inhabited villages of Patan, Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of Gujarat (as per Census, 2001) with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The details are given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of inhabited villages as per Census, 2001	Number of villages covered with VPT facility
1.	Patan	519	519
2.	Banaskantha	1240	1240
3.	Mehsana	593	593

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is having provision for providing Fax/STD/ISD facility on demand in Patan, Banaskantha and Mehsana districts of Gujarat. All VPTs provided by BSNL are having STD facility.

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

**Telephone facilities in all villages of Gujarat**

†2704. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks, village panchayats and villages covered under telephone facilities by BSNL in Gujarat;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.