

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 18.11.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**MOBILE PHONES FOR BETTER LIVELIHOOD .**

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Shri Ishwar Singh

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

- (a) whether the United Nation`s Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its latest report titled `ICT Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation` has concluded that mobile phones and other forms of communication technology can be utilized to reduce poverty and improve livelihood in developing countries;
- (b) whether the report also highlights that micro enterprises in low income countries like India are rapidly adopting mobile phones as key tools for advancing their commercial ventures and livelihood; and
- (c) the other salient features of this UNCTAD report?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The UNCTAD report – the 'Information Economy Report 2010 - ICT Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation' published by United Nations in October 2010 highlights that ICT sector represents a significant part of world economy. In some developing countries it accounts for more than 10 per cent of business sectors. Production of ICT goods and services can contribute through various channels to poverty reduction. The ICT sector can also offer jobs and income generating opportunities and in some cases create new livelihood. The main potential contributions of ICT to the poor are linked to second order effects, such as indirect job creating. The report basically has highlighted about the link between Poverty, ICT and Enterprises. It highlights that ICT plays a catalytic role in creation of the wealth through its effective utilization by Micro Enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises and Large Enterprises. The report has made a distinction between non-economic and the economic uses of ICT involving the poor in a country. The non-economic use relates to health, education and other social dimension. An economic use involves the poor as consumers, suppliers, workers and entrepreneurs and in making use of ICT to make financial transaction of some kind. On the whole, the report indicates that the effective use of ICT through right policy formulation, has a wholesome effect in poverty alleviation. The report is available at [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ier2010\\_embargo2010\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ier2010_embargo2010_en.pdf)