

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
TELEDENSITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS
V. SAROJA

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

- (a) the total land-line connections in both rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2002-03;
- (b) the number of cellular subscribers in the country separately for rural and urban areas;
- (c) the combined teledensity for rural and urban areas;
- (d) the targets regarding teledensity in both urban and rural areas set for 2005 and 2010; and
- (e) the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the above mentioned targets?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 154 FOR 30TH JULY, 2003 REGARDING TELEDENSITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.

(a) The total land line connections (inclusive of WLL) provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Private Basic Service Operators in rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2002-03 are given as under:

Urban	419.29 lakhs lines
Rural	114.06 lakhs lines

(b) For providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 metro city service areas and 19 telecom circle service areas (Total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service area and not to a particular city/town/village in the service area. As such the service areas cannot be categorized into rural and urban areas. The total number of cellular subscriber in the country as on 31.3.2003 is 126.9 lakhs.

(c) The combined teledensity as on 31.03.2003 for rural and urban areas are:

Rural	1.49
Urban	14.32

(d) The targets regarding teledensity set for 2005 is 7 and for 2010 is 15 per hundred persons. As per NTP-1999 the overall teledensity set for 2005 is 7 and for 2010 is 15. Based on NTP-1999 the target for rural teledensity has been fixed as 3% by 2007 and 4% by 2010.

(e) The Government has adopted the following strategy for the present to achieve the above-mentioned targets:

(i) Basic services have been opened for competition.

(ii) No. of cellular operators have been increased from 2 to 4 in each circle.

(iii) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) has been introduced for providing telephone connections in urban/semi urban and rural areas.

(iv) New technologies like WLL (CDMA, Cor DECT) and GSM have been introduced for faster roll out.