

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1233
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
TELEPHONE LINES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are about 4000 urban settlements and 5.75 lakh rural settlements with 25-30% population in the first category of settlements and the balance in the second category of the settlements ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the average telephone connection per family in urban and rural settlements ;
- (d) the number of settlements do not have telephone facility ; and
- (e) the targets of providing telephone lines in urban & rural settlements within three and five years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) and (b) As per 1991 Census Book of India there are 3768 Number of Urban Agglomerations/ Towns and there are around 6 lakh villages in the country. The percentage of Urban population as per 1991 Census is 25.72 %.
- (c) The average number of telephone connections per family in urban and rural settlements is 0.472 and 0.0397 respectively.
- (d) All urban Agglomerations/ Towns have telephone facility and out of 6 lakh villages 3.76 lakh villages have telephone facility.
- (e) During 2000-2003 it is estimated that approximately 200 lakh additional telephone connections including Mobile phones will be provided in urban areas and 58 lakh telephone connections will be provided in the rural areas of the country and during 2000-2005 it is estimated that approximately 363 lakh additional telephone connections including Mobile phones will be provided in urban areas and 130 lakh telephone connections will be provided in the rural areas of the country.