

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4095  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005  
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS  
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government has set any target in providing telephone connections both in the urban and rural areas in the country during the Tenth Plan period;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the actual achievement made thereto;
- (c) the main reasons for gap between target set and actual achievement in the country particularly in Rajasthan in providing telephone connections; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide the telephone connections in the country expeditiously?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. A target of 650 lakh telephones was fixed for the entire country to achieve a teledensity of 9.91% by the end of March, 2007. Similarly, to achieve the teledensity target of 3% by the end of the Plan, 147.2 lakh phones were required to be provided in the rural areas. Against this target upto February 28, 2005, 522.69 lakh additional phones have been provided in the country by both public and private operators of which 41.18 lakh phones are in the rural areas. The statewise targets were not fixed. However, BSNL and MTNL fix their targets each year keeping in view the demand and availability of funds. The details of these targets and achievements are given in the Annexure. Although there has been lower net contribution by BSNL as compared to the targets in Rajasthan mainly due to surrender of fixed phones, the overall addition in phones by both public and private operators has been 19.53 lakh during 1st April, 2002 to 28th February, 2005.

(d) Since most of the waiting list is in rural areas, following steps have been taken to expedite the telephone connections in such areas:

- (i) Large scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas has been planned.
- (ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable from 2.5 kms to 5.0 kms for Landline Exchanges has been given.
- (iii) Mobile network in all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and State Highways are deployed to give coverage to more areas.
- (iv) In addition to the efforts made by BSNL, the demand for telephones is also met by the private operators.
- (v) Further, financial support is provided to the telecom operators through the mechanism of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to encourage them, inter alia, to provide phones in rural areas.

**Annexure**

Telephone connection Targets and Achievement for 2002-2003,  
2003-2004, 2004-05 & target for 2005-06 (BSNL and MTNL)

Sl. No.	Circle	Target 2002-03	Achievement 2002-03	Target 2003-04	Achievement 2003-04	Target 2004-05	Net Ach. 2004-05*	Target 2005-06
1	Andaman & Nicobar	4000	4946	3500	6313	9900	4407	23000
2	Andhra Pradesh	39900	332331	44900	309625	639700	295671	730000
3	Assam	75000	64750	83000	49771	213600	154894	124800

4	Bihar	21580 0	161075	25500 0	143599	438300	17963 5	816000
5	Chhatti sgarh	39500	50052	58000	41793	102900	47969	165000
6	Gujarat	50270 0	404152	42400 0	3306	663000	12791 8	839000
7	Haryana	18700 0	180219	22300 0	164704	375000	11434 4	792000
8	Himacha l Pradesh	74000	55495	75000	53525	147700	45838	804000
9	Jammu & Kashmir	49000	41266	79500	64673	102100	13671 6	145100 0
10	Jharkha nd	93200	90414	96000	101347	151000	87053	157500 0
11	Karnata ka	43000 0	362151	38500 0	128552	434400	41288 7	710000
12	Kerala	66400 0	530452	80000 0	407074	101800	71068 5	205500 0
13	Madhya Pradesh	16750 0	167874	17600 0	157134	332200	20266 8	125900 0
14	Mharash tra	59300 0	565043	59600 0	343365	965500	38483 1	752000
15	North East-1	22300	21306	69500	26096	78800	49317	813000
16	Norht East-2	15500	18204	14500	26518	61000	47858	171700 0
17	Orissa	14700 0	151395	13700 0	139421	319200	18194 0	620000
18	Punjab	38700 0	282909	38900 0	106112	548000	97884	473000
19	Rajasth an	24900 0	213986	29700 0	214920	641700	23422 6	664000
20	Tamilna du	31800 0	269127	30500 0	217247	548600	58174 1	841000
21	Uttaran chal	57000	58698	73000	82806	139900	64944	131700 0
22	Uttar Pradesh East	27000 0	232839	27100 0	173139	586600	38803 5	201400 0
23	Uttar Pradesh West	21550 0	203454	24500 0	211836	362500	12180 2	866000
24	West Bengal	21700 0	217236	28500 0	165730	532000	19504 6	581000
25	Kolkata	62000	42810	13200 0	40360	351700	22211 1	141000 0
26	Chennai	13600 0	48116	14000 0	80415	236700	19710 1	165000
27	Delhi & Mumbai	54900 0	238000	35000 0	-148000	500000	24000	800000
	Total	61390 00	5008300	64110 00	3311381	105000 00	53115 21	255000 00

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