

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2986
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
GROWTH IN TELEPHONY SERVICES
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

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

- (a) whether the subscriber base for telephony services continued to maintain its general growth during the year 2003-2004;
- (b) whether the total number of mobile subscribers have risen to 3.5 crores as against the total number of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.28 crores; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of mobile subscribers has become 3.77 crores as against total number of fixed phone subscribers standing at 4.3 crores as on 30-06-2004.

(c) This is a general trend experienced all over the world that mobile subscribers base has increased much faster than fixed subscribers base. As per current Unified Access Service Licensing (UASL) regime, Telecom Operators are allowed to provide telephone connections on any media i.e. landline or WLL or Cellular. But more and more customers are preferring mobile telephone connection over fixed telephone connection because of ease in mobility, lesser fault occurrence and liberty to change service provider easily. As per the current trend, the number of mobile subscribers are likely to overtake the fixed phone subscribers by the end of the current year.