

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2175

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005

DENSITY OF TELEPHONE LINES TELEPHONES IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) the per-capita density of telephone lines and telephones in various States of the country as on date during the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the total percentage of increase in this density registered as compared to the last year;
- (c) whether there has been per-capita increase in this density in the rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of rural areas where telephones are available in very less numbers even today;
- (f) the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government is contemplating to start any subsidized scheme for such areas;
- (h) if so, the details thereof, and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The details of the state-wise teledensity (number of phones per hundred population) as on December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2004, increase in teledensity during this period, and rural teledensity as on December 31, 2004 are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The all India rural teledensity has increased from 1.49% as on March 31, 2003 to 1.69% as on December 31, 2004.

(e) & (f): The rural teledensity is lower in the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, North East and Uttar Pradesh. The teledensity is low because the operators are not keen to provide telecom services due to the non-remunerative nature of the service in rural areas.

(g) to (i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to fund telecom services in the rural areas including such areas in these states. The scope of support through USOF, interalia, includes Village Public Telephones (VPTs) Individual household phones, Public Teleinfo Centres (PTICs) etc.

ANNEXURE

STATE-WISE TELEDENSITY INCLUDING RURAL TELEDENSITY AS ON 31.12.2003 AND 31.12.2004

SL. NO.	NAME OF STATE	TELEDENSITY AS ON 31.12.2003	TELEDENSITY AS ON 31.12.2004	INCREASE IN TELEDENSITY	RURAL TELEDENSITY
1	Andaman & Nicobar	11.41	12.42	1.01	8.97
2	Andhra Pardesh	7.26	9.19	1.93	2.38
3	Assam	1.97	2.71	0.74	0.60
4	Bihar	1.59	2.01	0.42	0.52
5	Chhattisgarh	1.58	1.68	0.10	0.51
6	Gujarat	9.7	12.06	2.36	2.65
7	Haryana	7.63	10.16	2.53	2.68
8	Himachal Pardesh	9.68	12.52	2.84	6.72
9	Jammu &	2.9	4.72	1.82	0.71

Kashmir				
10 Jharkhand	1.97	2.28	0.31	0.47
11 Karnataka	8.92	11.80	2.88	2.47
12 Kerala	13.78	17.85	4.07	9.47
13 Madhya	3.76	4.83	1.07	0.65
Pardesh				
14 Maharashtra-	8.64	9.50	0.86	2.55
Mumbai				
15 North East	3.05	3.72	0.67	0.54
16 Orissa	2.81	3.65	0.84	1.01
17 Punjab	16.21	21.86	5.65	5.31
18 Rajasthan	4.18	5.78	1.60	1.43
19 Tamilnadu-	8.78	10.91	2.13	2.60
Chennai				
20 Uttaranchal	5.06	5.72	0.66	1.60
21 Uttar Pradesh	2.74	3.88	1.14	0.49
22 West Bengal-	2.53	2.78	0.25	1.00
Kolkatta				
METRO-CITIES				
1 Kolkatta	15.68	23.45	7.77	0
2 Chennai	27.28	46.99	19.71	0
3 Delhi	40.94	50.18	9.24	0
4 Mumbai	28.39	42.97	14.58	0
Overall	6.60	8.59	1.99	1.69
Teledensity				