

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:202

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005

MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has not been able to provide satisfactory mobile telephone services in rural areas despite the technological advancement;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any targets have been fixed with regard to the expansion of mobile telephone services in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for provision of adequate mobile telephone services in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(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 STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2005 REGARDING MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) & (b) Government has been making efforts to provide telephone network (including that for mobile services) in the rural areas progressively.

(c) & (d) While no targets have been fixed with regard to expansion of mobile telephone services in rural areas, it is expected that most of the villages with a population of more than 2,000 will be covered by mobile network by the end of 2007.

(e) In addition to the support provided for the normal rollout plans of the telecom service providers, Government is examining the feasibility of providing support for creation of infrastructure for mobile services in rural areas from the Universal Service Obligation Fund.