

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:885  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006  
RURAL TELEDENSITY  
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) the teledensity of Urban India as on 31 December, 2005;
- (b) the teledensity of rural India as on 31 December, 2005;
- (c) the reasons for not finding an increase in rural teledensity inspite of an unprecedented growth over the last three years; and
- (d) the action being taken by the Union Government to improve the rural teledensity?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The urban teledensity is 34.77% as on 31.12.2005.
- (b) The rural teledensity is 1.8% as on 31.12.2005.
- (c) The reasons for less increase in the rural teledensity are:
  - # Poor availability of power
  - # Affordability
  - # Scattered human population making provisioning of telecom services techno-commercial less viable
  - # Insurgency and inaccessibility on account of difficult terrains etc.
- (d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to increase the telephone density in rural areas, which include the following:
  - (i) Setting up of the Universal Service Obligation Fund by the Government for provision of telephones in the rural areas;
  - (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Kms to 5 Kms for Landline Exchanges which would facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from existing exchanges; and
  - (iii) Increased provision of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) phones by BSNL.