

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1441
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2006
CELLULAR PHONE IN RURAL AREAS
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) whether the cost incurred in providing communication facility through cellular technology in rural areas is lesser than the fixed line telephone technology;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any decision to use cellular technology in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance from Universal Service Obligation Fund under this scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per information received from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) the installation cost of wireline is around Rs. 26,000/- per line while that of wireless in Local Loop Phone is around Rs. 9000/- (excluding cost of Handset) and that of mobile phone is around Rs. 5500/-. The operational expenditure per line per month for basic services has been reported as Rs. 621.25 while for cellular services, the corresponding figure is Rs. 205/-.

(c) & (d) The policy of the Government is technology neutral irrespective of rural or urban areas. However most of the service providers are using wireless technology in rural areas.

(e) & (f) An amendment in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 for providing assistance for Cellular Services from Universal Service Obligation Fund is under consideration.