

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2918  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006  
EXPANSION OF BASIC AND CELLULAR PHONE SERVICES  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the network of basic-telephone services and cellular services has expanded in the country during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the annual growth rate registered by both the above sectors during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the target fixed therefor for the next year; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure quality services by the various cellular operators?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite information is given below:

Annual Growth Rate in telecom services (%)

Year	Basic#	Cellular
2002-03	8.04	109.77
2003-04	22.0	106.14
2004-05	13.82	56.86
2005-06	27.01	68.67

#includes landline and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)

(c) The Government has set a target of achieving 250 million phones in the country by the end of 2007. With the expected total achievement of 145 million (approx) as on end April, 2006, an additional 105 million phones will have to be provided in the remaining period.

(d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regularly monitors the performance of cellular mobile operators on the basis of the prescribed Quality of Service (QoS) parameters. Government, besides watching general performance with reference to QoS, facilitates service providers in addressing interconnection issues and also pursues matters for clearance of cellsites with local authorities.