

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5053
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
NEW TELECOM POLICY
PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

he details of the objectives and achievements made so far in regard to new Telecom Policy, 1999?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens is at the core of the vision and goal of the telecom policy. The key objectives and achievements made so far in regard to New Telecom Policy - 1999 are as follows:-

Objectives

Achievements

Make available telephone on demand by the year 2002 and sustain it thereafter so as to achieve a tele-density of 7 by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010. Present tele-density is 3.65 and expected to reach 7.5 by 2005 and 17.8 by 2010

Encourage development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure. Tariff has been reduced for rural areas.

Increase rural tele-density from the current level of 0.4 to 4 by the year 2010. Present rural tele-density is 0.93 and expected to reach 4.93 by 2010,

Achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002. 4,10,757 villages out of 6,07,491 have been provided with village panchayat telephones (VPTs) as on 30.6.2001

Provide Internet access to all district head quarters by the year 2000. Internet access provided to all District Headquarters.

Provide high speed data and multimedia capability using technologies including ISDN to all towns with a population greater than 2 lakh by the year 2002. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), so far, is planning to extend multimedia Capability through ISDN. The ISDN facility has been made available in 303 towns by 30.6.2001.

Transform in a time bound manner, the telecommunication sector to a greater competitive environment. Cellular Telephone Mobile services, Basic Telephone services, VSAT services, Internet services, Radio Paging services, National Long Distance Operations, Infrastructure Providers

category - I &II, Public Mobile Radio
Trunking Services, Global Mobile
Personal Communication Services, Voice
Mail Services etc. have been opened up
for private sector participation, to
bring in a greater competitive
environment.

Restructuring of DoT BSNL commenced its operations w.e.f.
1st October, 2000.

Role of Regulator TRAI was strengthened and its role
clarified. Telecom Dispute settlement
& Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) was set up.