

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3528
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN THE HILLY AREAS
K.K. KALIAPPAN

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

- (a) whether this Ministry is introducing various schemes to provide better telecommunication facilities in all over the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to allocate more funds to provide better telecommunication facilities to the hilly areas of the Country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (S. K. SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) & (b) : Ministry is introducing various schemes to improve the telecom services in the Country which has been already envisaged in New Telecom Policy 1999 with the following broad objectives :

1. Affordable and effective communication facilities to all citizens.
2. Achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country and provide reliable media to all exchanges by the year 2002.
3. Encouragement to development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure and making provision of rural communications mandatory for all fixed service providers.
4. Increase rural teledensity from the current level of 0.4 to 4 by the year 2010 and provide reliable transmission media in all rural areas.
5. Make available telephone on demand by the year 2002 and sustain it thereafter so as to achieve a teledensity of 7 by 2005 and 15 by 2010.
6. To safe guard defence and security interests of the Country.

Several schemes have been initiated such as provisioning of telephones on Wireless Local Loop (WLL) system, cellular mobile service, extensive deployment of optic fibre cable systems, issuing new licenses for cellular, fixed and other services.

(c) to (e): Government doe not have separate fund allocation for hilly areas of the country, however, under the Annual plan of the Department fund is being allocated for tribal areas and for North-Eastern states of the country.