

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:149

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005

SHARE OF PRIVATE TELECOM FIRMS IN RURAL AREAS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether private telecom firms hold about 43 per cent market share of the total telecom services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether private telecom firms do not have significant share in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to encourage private telecom firms to expand their business in rural India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 FOR 3RD AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING SHARE OF PRIVATE TELECOM FIRMS IN RURAL AREAS

(a) & (b) The share of private telecom operators in the total phones provided in the country is 48.93 % as on 30.6.2005. Of the 103.29 million total phones, private sector has provided about 50.54 million phones as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Total as on 30.6.2005
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1	Reliance Telecom	13367153
2	Bharti Infotel Ltd/Bharti/Hexacom	12251749
3	Hutchison	5594665
4	IDEA	5552347
5	Aircel	3394125
6	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	3317563
7	BPL	2629251
8	Spice	1473350
9	Fascel	1314041
10	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	1184363
11	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	265936
12	Shyam Telelink Ltd.	192606
13	Reliable Internet	1671
	Total	50538820

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The licences for unified access services/cellular services do not stipulate mandatory rural roll-out obligations. There is no private Basic Service Operator at present.

(e) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support. The private sector has also been awarded tenders for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (R-DELS) through the support from USOF apart from support

for maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and setting up of Rural Community Phones (RCPs).