

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2993  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004  
GROWTH RATE IN TELECOM SECTOR  
Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

- (a) whether the annual growth rate in the telecommunication sector has increased constantly during the previous year;
- (b) if so, the average annual growth rate during the last three years;
- (c) whether the annual growth rate has been minimum in various States of the country;
- (d) if so, the States in which annual growth rate has been maximum; and
- (e) the States where annual growth rate has been minimum and the growth rate estimated in the backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Average growth rate of telephone connections in whole country during the last three years is 28.52%.
- (c) There are certain States where the growth rate has been lesser than the average growth rate of country.
- (d) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced highest annual growth rate are Punjab, Delhi and Mumbai.
- (e) The States/Telecom Circles which experienced lowest growth rate are Assam, Andaman & Nicobar and North East-I & II.

Government owned PSU-BSNL has planned to provide 4.38 lakh, 9.5 lakh, 2.14 lakh, 0.1 lakh, 1.17 lakh and 0.23 lakh telephone connections in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar, North East-I and North East-II respectively in year 2004.05. In addition, Private Operators would also provide telephone connections in these States which is expected to enhance the growth rate in these States.