

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:183
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
TELCOM INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for creating telecom infrastructure in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of amount allocated for this purpose;
- (d) the rural tele-density at present; and
- (e) the extent to which this rural tele-density is likely to be increased by 2007?

Answer

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

- (a) Telecom service in rural areas is being provided by both Government owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and private operators.
- (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is supporting the infrastructure in rural areas. They have entered in to agreement with BSNL and private players for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 remaining unconnected villages, providing Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in 46,253 villages having population of more than 2000 and not having a PCO and providing rural individual connections (RDELs) on demand in 1,685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (c) Subsidy support of Rs. 1 lakh is given for each satellite based VPT and Rs. 25,000 for other VPTs towards capital expenditure. Subsidy support between Rs.11,300 - 14,700 is given towards capital expenditure for each RCP. Subsidy support for RDELs is between Rs. 4,000 - 17,000 per line.
- (d) As on 30th September, 2005 the rural tele-density is 1.77.
- (e) Tenth Plan has set a target of 3.0 by 2007.