

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3131  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005  
LANDLINE /MOBILE PHONE CONNECTIONS  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) the total landline connections in both rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2004-05;
- (b) the number of cellular subscribers in the country separately for rural and urban areas;
- (c) the combined tele density for rural and urban areas;
- (d) the targets regarding tele density in both urban and rural areas set for 2005 and 2010; and
- (e) the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the above mentioned targets?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) As on 31.03.2005 the total landline connections were 41484257 of which 12437065 were in rural and 29047192 in urban areas respectively. The total number of cellular connections during the same period was 41025940.
- (c) The overall teledensity was 10.53% as on 31.10.2005.
- (d) & (e) The targets set for teledensity are 7% by 2005 and 15% by 2010. The steps taken by the Government to achieve these targets include the following:-
  - (i) About 150 million additional phones are planned to be provided during the period April, 2005 to December, 2007;
  - (ii) The USO Fund Administrator has finalized the agreements with four telecom service providers for provision of rural phones; and
  - (iii) BSNL has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km for landline exchanges. This would facilitate the larger coverage in the rural areas from the existing exchanges.