

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4200  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004  
RURAL PUBLIC TELEPHONE  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether 86 percent of villages of the country have been linked with rural public telephone and the telephone density in the country has reached upto 7.02 percent;
- (b) if so, whether the total number of telephone connections have also increased;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted a survey of telephones which often remain out of order; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The total number of village connections has increased to 1,16,37,154 as on 31.03.2004 from 1,09,90,991 as on 31.03.2003.

(c) No formal survey has been conducted by Government. However, TRAI conducts periodic survey of Quality of Service by all Service Providers, including on the fault rate.

(d) Faults are attended to as and when they are reported/detected. Village Public Telephones (VPTs) using Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) Technology, where the incidence of faults is higher, are being progressively replaced with more reliable telephones.