

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:104
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
BOOST TO RURAL TELEPHONY
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the TRAI have formulated a policy to boost the growth of Telecom Services in rural areas as reported in the `Statesman` dated October 28, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the States where these telecom projects will be undertaken;
- (d) the gap at present between rural and urban telephony; and
- (e) the time by when the telephone services are likely to be provided in all the rural areas of the country?

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. 104 FOR 8TH DECEMBER, 2004 REGARDING BOOST TO RURAL TELEPHONY.

(a) & (b) No, Sir. TRAI has issued a consultation paper on `Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India` on 27th October 2004 inviting opinion/comments of stakeholders by 30th November, 2004.

The consultation paper covers issues relating to rural telecommunication such as availability of telephone facilities in rural areas, increasing gap in urban and rural teledensity, upgrading the rural connectivity from voice and low speed data transfer to Broadband connectivity etc.

(c) The consultation paper issued by TRAI addresses the issue of rural telecommunication at National level and is not specific to any particular State.

(d) As on 30.9.2004, the rural teledensity is 1.66% as against urban teledensity of 24.08%.

(e) Telephone services are likely to be provided in all the rural areas of the country by November, 2007 as per tender terms and conditions, finalised recently by the Administrator of the Universal Service Fund.