

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:142
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
REDUCTION IN MOBILE TELEPHONE CHARGES
Murmu Shri Rupchand;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy in order to reduce the mobile telephone charges from their present levels in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised;
- (d) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the number of telephone connections to the villages during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10; and
- (e) if so, the targets set therefor, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(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 THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 142 FOR 10TH MARCH, 2008 REGARDING 'REDUCTION IN MOBILE TELEPHONE CHARGES'.

(a) The Government does not fix the telecom tariff. The same is regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b)&(c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. Government through BSNL, a public sector company of the Government of India, has undertaken the task of increasing teledensity in the rural areas. The state-wise targets are fixed year-wise and the same for year 2008-09 are given in the Annexure. The targets for the year 2009-10 would be fixed in due course.