

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:587

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008

SERVICES UNDER TELECOM SECTOR

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

- (a) the details of the services provided in the country under Telecom Sector especially in the State of Maharashtra and Gujarat;
- (b) the number of villages in which WLL services have been provided in the country, especially in Maharashtra and Gujarat;
- (c) the number of villages which are still deprived of WLL services in the country especially in Gujarat, State-wise and location-wise;
- (d) whether the telephone density in rural areas is less than in urban areas in Gujarat;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by which WLL services are likely to be provided in all villages of the country?

Answer

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

(a) Various services provided in the country under telecom sector especially in Maharashtra and Gujarat are; Basic [Wired line and Wireless in Local loop (WLL)], Cellular Mobile, Broadband, Internet etc.

(b) As on 31.1.2008, BSNL has covered 4,15,213 villages with WLL services in the country. 26,658 and 11,933 villages have been covered with WLL services in Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively By BSNL.

(c) Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) WLL coverage is planned to cover Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) wise, not village-wise by BSNL. The Circle-wise details of SDCAs which are still deprived of WLL services in the country are at Annexure.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As on 31.12.2007, the rural teledensity is 14.68% and the urban teledensity is 55.84% in Gujarat. The reasons are:

i) Poor availability of infrastructure in rural areas which is not conducive to the development of telecom facilities.

ii) Socio economic status of rural populace.

iii) Most of the demands of telephone connections in rural areas are from far-flung scattered areas where laying telecom network is techno-commercially non-viable.

(f) As on 31.1.08, out of the 2642 SDCAs in the country, 2573 SDCAs have already been covered by CDMA WLL services. Except for few SDCAs where WLL is techno commercially non-viable, the WLL coverage in the remaining SDCAs will be provided in a progressive manner.