

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:477
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any targets were set for the expansion of telephone services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated percentage achievement of targets made by each of the urban and rural areas so far; and
- (d) the time by which the Government are likely to achieve the targets set for the rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per NPT-1999, the overall tele-density target of 7 per hundred was to be achieved by 2005 and 15.0 by 2010. Further for the rural areas, the tele-density target of 4.0 is to be achieved by 2010. For the 10th plan, a target of 9.91 is to be achieved by the end of 2006-07. For the rural areas, the target of tele-density of 3.0 is to be achieved by the end of the Plan.

(c) The over-all tele-density of 7.15 has already been achieved by the end of 30.04.2004. For the rural areas, the achievement is 1.58. The tele-density achieved in urban areas is 21.17. Out of 6.07 Lakh villages, 521552 villages have been provided Village Public Telephones as on 30.04.2004. All the exchanges in the country have been provided with reliable media and the District Headquarters have been provided with Internet connectivity.

(d) With the introduction of non-lapsable USO Fund and its use to cover the rural areas and increasing competition in the market, it is expected that the laid down targets for the rural areas shall be achieved.