

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1757
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
PRIVATE COMPANIES IN TELECOM SECTOR
Dashmuni Deepa

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

- (a) whether the Government is encouraging more participation of private sector companies in the Telecom Sector in the country including West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the break-up of density of telephone network in the urban and rural areas in the country including West Bengal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government has liberalised telecom sector and allowed participation of private sector for Unified Access Services, National Long Distance, International Long Distance, Internet Service Providers and infrastructure Providers to supplement the Government efforts in providing telecom services. Presently these services are open for competition and private participation subject to eligibility. 74% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted for telecom services and 100% FDI is permitted for manufacturing of telecom equipment and Infrastructure Providers category I.

State-wise telephone subscribers are given in Annexure-I.

(c) The break-up of density of telephone network in the urban and rural areas in the country is given in Annexure -II.