

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:254  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010  
INCREASE IN TELE-DENSITY  
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether the tele-density in some States, especially in Bihar is much low as compared to the national tele-density;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the density of telephones in the country is much lower than the global tele-density;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the tele-density in the country?

**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. 254 FOR 15TH MARCH, 2010 REGARDING "INCREASE IN TELE-DENSITY".

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The license area wise tele-density of the country for the last three years and the current year is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) The country's tele-density is 49.52% as on 31.01.2010 compared to world's tele-density of 84.80% as on 31.12.2009 (latest available).

(e) The following steps are taken/being taken by the Government to increase the tele-density in the country:-

1. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide 180 lakh connections of GSM Mobile during this financial year and 200 lakh GSM Mobile connections during 2010-11.
2. BSNL has deployed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural areas where connection of telephone is not techno-commercially feasible on landlines.
3. BSNL has deployed its mobile network on national highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and state highways. BSNL plans to cover villages having population more than 1000 by mobile services progressively in next three years.
4. The GSM network in MTNL Delhi & Mumbai has been planned to be further expanded by 2 million each (including 7.5 lakh 3G lines).
5. MTNL has already launched 3G GSM services in Delhi & Mumbai for which a capacity of 2.5 lakh has been installed each at Delhi & Mumbai.
6. The Government is issuing new Access Service Licenses from time to time. Presently, there are 281 Access Service Licenses in the country with 12-14 Access Licenses in each service area. Besides, the Government has also issued permission for usage of dual technology spectrum under the existing access service licenses.
7. Support is being provided from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
8. A scheme was launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 (revised to 7387) number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 states for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. As on 31.01.2010, 7020 towers, i.e., about 95% have been set up under this scheme.

9. In addition to the efforts made by BSNL and MTNL, the private operators are also offering their services to meet the demand for telephone.