

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2807

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) whether the revolution in telecom services has not reached the rural areas in the country despite considerable development in the Telecom Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has achieved its objectives;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made thereon; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Government has taken various measures to provide telecom facilities in rural areas of the country. As a result, the rural teledensity has become 21.19% as on December, 2009 against the target of 4% teledensity in rural areas by 2010. To spread the reach of telecom connectivity, more than 5.6 lakh villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the country covering more than 95% of the villages.

(c) to (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established with the objective to regulate the telecommunication services, to protect the interest of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. TRAI has been able to achieve the above objectives as evident from below:

The supportive regulatory environment created by TRAI through issue of various regulations, directions and orders has contributed significantly in the growth of telecom services in terms of increase in the number of service providers, consumer base and vast network of the telecom services in the country. These measures have resulted in overall benefits to the consumer in terms of choice of services, affordable tariff of telecom services and better quality of services.