

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2853
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010
LANDLINE TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
Mandal Shri Mangani Lal

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

- (a) whether the expansion of Landline Telephone Connections in comparison to the Mobile Telephone connections is slow in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expand the Landline Telephone connections in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, there is more demand and expansion of Mobile Telephones than the Landline Telephones in the country due to convenience of mobility, more price competitiveness and wider reach. While the number of Landline Telephones has decreased from 39.41 million as on 31st March 2008 to 36.99 million as on 31st January 2010, the number of Mobile Telephones has increased from 261.08 million to 545.05 million during the same period.

The reasons for decline in landline are given below:

- # Surrender of excess basic telephones.
- # Closure of office/Company
- # Economic reasons.
- # Increased use of mobile phones and consequential surrender of fixed lines.
- # Competitive Environment/taking telephone from other operators.
- # Availability of faster wireless data communications through mobile communication.

(c) The attractiveness of landline is being enhanced by providing more value added services to landline e.g. broadband internet connections, video conferencing, data services, video/movie on demand, web conferencing etc. The old telephone exchanges are planned to be progressively replaced with Next Generation Networking (NGN) Exchange, Internet Mail Service (IMS) type exchanges to facilitate easy provision of value added services.