

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:1
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
STRENGTHENING OF TELECOM FACILITY
Sardinha Shri Francisco

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

- (a) whether the telecom facilities in the coastal States including Goa are adequate;
- (b) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to upgrade/strengthen the telecommunication facilities in these States;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up new telecom circles including Goa; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 1 FOR 26TH JULY, 2010 REGARDING "STRENGTHENING OF TELECOM FACILITY"

(a) & (b) Madam, the coastal States include the license service areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mumbai, Karantaka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Kolkata and West Bengal. The state of Goa is a part of Maharashtra telecom service area. The telecom facilities in the coastal States including Goa are comparable to other parts of the country. As on 31st May 2010, number of telephones provided by BSNL per 100 of population in Maharashtra including Goa is 8.39 against the all India BSNL average of 8.66. Taking all the telecom operators together including BSNL, the teledensity of Maharashtra including Goa is 52.57 against the all India average of 55.38. The teledensity for other coastal states is also comparable.

The total number of Access Telecom Service Providers in the state of Maharashtra including Goa is 13 which is also comparable to the other states where there are 12 to 14 operators.

In the Maharashtra Telecom Circle including Goa, BSNL is having landline 4939 telephone exchanges out of which 135 are in Goa.

BSNL has installed 5474 mobile towers in Maharashtra Telecom Circle including Goa for providing mobile services out of which 274 are in Goa.

The strengthening and upgradation of telecom infrastructure by BSNL is a continuous activity. BSNL is continuously expanding and augmenting their telecom infrastructure in the country including Maharashtra Telecom Circle.

(c) & (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to set up new telecom Circles including Goa. BSNL is already having 26 Telecom Circles.