

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
LANDLINE TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Landline Telephone subscribers in rural areas is decreasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the number of mobile users in rural areas is increasing;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the percentage of increase in the number of mobile phone users in comparison to that of Landline users during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The reasons are given below:
 - (i) Rapid expansion of mobile services and manifold increase in mobile connections.
 - (ii) Greater convenience and cheaper calls and consequent shifting of traffic to more convenient mobile phones than landline phones.
- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) The number of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL's) mobile users in rural areas during the last three years are given below.

As on Mobile users (in million)

31.3.2008 10.13

31.3.2009 14.16

31.3.2010 20.15

30.6.2010 21.26

- (e) The circle wise details are given in the Annexure-I.