

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1854

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

GROWTH RATE OF TELE-DENSITY

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

- (a) the percentage of growth rate of tele-density in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise:
- (b) wireless subscriber base has registered growth as compared to wireline subscribers during the current year as compared to previous year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

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

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. The wireless telephones have registered growth as compared to the wireline telephones during the current year (April 2010 to September 2010) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. The details are given below:

Number of telephones

Wireline Wireless

As on 31.03.2009 37,964,612 391,760,569

As on 30.09.2009 37,306,334 471,726,205

Growth from April 2009 to September 2009 -1.73 % 20.41 %

As on 31.03.2010 36,956,684 584,323,402

As on 30.09.2010 35,566,868 687,719,077

Growth from April 2010 to September 2010 -3.76 % 17.69 %

(d) The following steps are being taken by the Government in this regard:

(i) To meet the demand of wireline telephones in rural areas, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is now laying cable up to 5 Kms. of exchange against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms.

(ii) BSNL has deployed its mobile network on national highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and State highways.

(iii) BSNL has deployed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural

areas.

(iv) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is improving the legacy telephone network by change of cables, drop wire etc. as required.

(v) All exchanges have been made digital by MTNL to improve service quality.

(vi) Rehabilitation of outdoor network is being done by MTNL on continuous basis to reduce fault rate.

(vii) MTNL is deploying Next Generation Network (NGN) to provide telephone services which replaces/upgrades the existing landline network and provides a lot of service from a single network based on Internet Protocol (IP) in line with the emerging trends.