

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:337

ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009

RURAL TELEPHONY

Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of private telephone service providers in rural areas in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the private operators had failed in fulfilling their contractual obligations in matters including installation of telephone infrastructure/network in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof in respect of such cases during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) 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 (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 337 FOR 27TH JULY, 2009 REGARDING RURAL TELEPHONY.

(a) to (e) As per the present policy of Unified Access Services Licence (UASL), there is no rollout obligation for Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs) to provide telephones in rural areas. However, PBSOs have contributed significantly in the growth of rural telephony and have helped in increasing the rural teledensity to more than 16% as on May 2009 against the target of 4% to be achieved by 2010 laid down in National Telecom Policy (NTP-99). Out of the total rural connections of 135 million, the contribution of PBSOs is 78%.