

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3088  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009  
TELECOM COMPANIES IN REMOTE AREAS  
Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) the number of private telecom companies providing telecom services in hilly and remote areas of the country including Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) the details in regard to companies providing telecom services alongwith area covered under their operation and alongwith the number of subscribers;
- (c) whether any timeframe has been fixed for connecting the said areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The number and details of private telecom companies providing telecom services in the country which covers the hilly and remote areas along with the areas covered under their operation including Himachal Pradesh is given in Annexure-I. Department of Telecommunications does not maintain subscriber data of hilly and remote areas. However, a statement indicating company-wise, area-wise telephone connections in the country as on 31.5.2009 is given in Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. As per present policy of Unified Access Service Licences (UASL), there is no roll out obligation for Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs) to provide telephones in rural areas.