

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4175
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE SERVICES
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any targets for the expansion of telephone services in the country including Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements made by each of the urban and rural areas of the country including Gujarat during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), inter-alia, provides for achieving a target of 200 million rural connections by 2012 and a rural teledensity of 25% in the country including Gujarat. Government has also envisaged to attain a rural teledensity of 40% by 2014. As on 31.05.2009, 135.42 million rural connections have been provided and a rural teledensity of 16.54% has been achieved.

(c) A statement indicating the growth of telecom sector in rural and urban areas of the country including Gujarat during the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure.