

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:30

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012

TELE-DENSITY

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether the tele-density in some States is much less than the national teledensity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, Statewise alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the tele-density in the country is much less than the global teledensity;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the tele-density in the country, particularly in the rural areas in the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 30 FOR 14TH MARCH, 2012 REGARDING "TELE-DENSITY"

(a) & (b) The service area-wise details of rural, urban and overall tele-density in the country for the last three years and current year (as on 31.01.2012) are given in the Annexure. The main reasons for lower tele-density in some of the States compared to the national tele-density are low per capita income, poor literacy rate, poor availability of infrastructure viz. power and road, particularly in rural areas, socio-economic status of rural population etc.

(c) & (d) The comparative position of fixed and mobile phones' tele-density of the country vis-a-vis the estimated global tele-density as per International Telecommunications Union (ITU), at the end of December 2011 is as under:

Type of telephone	India	World
-------------------	-------	-------

Fixed Telephones	2.71 %	16.6 %
Mobile Telephones	74.15 %	86.7 %

(e) The following steps are taken / being taken by Government to increase the tele-density in the country:

1. Various schemes are being implemented with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for providing access to telecom services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices. These schemes are contributing in increase of rural tele-density which inter-alia, include the following:

(i) As on 31.01.2012, 5,80,124 villages i.e. 97.73% of the Census 2001 inhabited revenue villages have been covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(ii) As on 31.01.2012, 1,84,775 VPTs, out of a total number of 1,85,121 VPTs earlier working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology and installed before 01.04.2002, have been replaced with reliable technologies.

(iii) A scheme was launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7353 number of infrastructure sites/ towers in 500 districts spread over 27 states, for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there was no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. As on 31.01.2012, 7296 towers have been set up under this scheme. The infrastructure so created is being shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. As on 31.01.2012, 15,851 Base Transceiver Stations have been commissioned by Service Providers and mobile services are being provided.

2. To meet the demand of wire line 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. based on demand and techno-commercial consideration.
3. BSNL has deployed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural areas where connection of telephone is not techno-commercially feasible on landlines.
4. BSNL has deployed its mobile network on national and State highways, important towns and pilgrim centers.

The Twelfth Five Year Plan has not been approved so far.