

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
DECLINE IN TELECOM USERS
Sugumar Shri K. ;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the details of the mobile phone subscribers in the country during the last three years and the current year, year and State-wise;
- (b) the projected addition of new telephone connections for the next three years and the expenditure likely to be incurred therefor;
- (c) whether the telecom user base has dropped considerably during the last few months;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State and operator-wise and the reasons therefor along with the revenue loss suffered as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to check the decline in mobile telephone subscriber base?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF 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. 162 FOR 5TH DECEMBER, 2012 REGARDING "DECLINE IN TELECOM USERS"

(a) The year-wise and service area-wise details of mobile phone subscribers in the country for the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-I.

(b) It has been projected that 500 million lines would be added during the Twelfth Plan period with an estimated investment of Rupees 6.5 lakh crore in telecom infrastructure.

(c) & (d) During the first quarter of year 2012-13, the total telephone connections increased from 951.35 million to 965.52 million. In the second quarter, the number of total telephone connections has declined from 965.52 million to 937.70 million. The Service area-wise and operator-wise details of telephone connections as on 30.06.2012 and 30.09.2012 are given in Annexure-II. The decline in telecom user base after June 2012 is due to, inter-alia, the removal of inactive mobile telephone connections and high tele-density in urban areas. The revenue of the telecom operators is dependent on a number of factors including the telephone subscriber base. As per the provisional figures, there has been no decline in the consolidated gross revenue of the Access Service Providers during the second quarter of the current financial year (2012-13) when compared to that of first quarter of the financial year.

(e) The following steps have been taken to increase the number of mobile telephone subscribers, especially in rural and remote areas:

(i) Capacity expansion by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for its Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile network.

(ii) 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.

(iii) BSNL has deployed its mobile network on national highways, important towns and state highways.

(iv) A scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation 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 is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage in the country. About 7310 sites and 15895 Base Transceiver Stations have been commissioned by Service Providers as on 31.10.2012.