

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1968

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

GROWTH OF TELECOM

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

- (a) the details of telephone subscribers in the country as on date separately in urban and rural areas; State-wise;
- (b) the growth of cellular telephones separately in urban and rural areas in term of number as well as percentage during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for variation in growth in telecom services, if any, in urban and rural areas and in different States;
- (d) the targets set for growth of telephone network under Twelfth Five Year plan separately in urban and rural areas, State-wise;
- (e) the details of village panchayats provided with telephone facilities and those yet to be provided with such facility; State-wise; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government to give impetus to telecom sector growth in the country particularly in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

- (a) The service area-wise details of telephone subscribers in the country as on 30.09.2012, separately in urban and rural areas are given in Annexure-I.
- (b) The service area-wise and year-wise details of increase in mobile telephones separately in urban and rural areas in term of number as well as percentage during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-II.
- (c) Variations in income levels, literacy rate, availability of infrastructure and remoteness of the area are some of the reasons for variation in growth in telecom service in urban and rural areas and in different States.
- (d) The Twelfth Five Year plan is yet to be approved.
- (e) The details of villages which have been covered and yet to be covered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facilities are given in Annexure-III.
- (f) The following steps are taken by the Government to give impetus to telecom sector growth in the country particularly in rural areas:
 - (i) The Government approved the National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-2012) on 31st May 2012 which addresses the Vision, Strategic direction and the various medium term and long term issues related to the telecom sector. The primary objective of NTP-2012 is maximizing public good by making available affordable, reliable and secure telecommunication and broadband services across the entire country.
 - (ii) Capacity expansion by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for its Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile network.
 - (iii) 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 (BTSs) have been commissioned by Service Providers as on 31.10.2012.
 - (iv) Government has approved a project, at a cost of Rs. 20,000 crore, for creating a National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) to connect all the 2,50,000 Gram panchayats in the country.