

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:244

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009

MOBILE CONNECTIONS

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra; Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) the number of villages covered and yet to be covered with mobile telephone services in the country. State-wise;
- (b) the number of mobile phone service providers and the mobile density in the country including rural areas, State-wise;
- (c) whether some private telecom service providers are not fulfilling their social obligation for providing their services in the rural and remote areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve total mobile connectivity all over the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(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 THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2009 REGARDING " MOBILE CONNECTIONS".

(a) Out of about 6.09 lakh villages in the country, as per Census 2001, about 3.45 lakh villages have been covered with mobile telephone services by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Circle-wise details of villages covered and yet to be covered with the mobile services by BSNL in the country are given in Annexure-I.

(b) The Circle-wise details of mobile phones service provided by all the service providers and the mobile density in the country are given in Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) No, Madam. As per the license conditions, there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas by the telecom operators. However, in 2008-09, 47 million mobile connections were provided in rural areas.

(e) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to achieve total mobile connectivity all over the country inter-alia are as under:

(i) A scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (Phase-I) for setting up of 7871 shareable infrastructure site in 500 districts in 27 States for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support. As on 30.9.2009, 6,566 towers have been set up under this scheme.

(ii) Second phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 10,128 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas is likely to be launched shortly.

(iii) Sharing of infrastructure has been permitted to reduce the capital as well as operation cost.