

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN RURAL AREAS
Chaudhary Shri Babulal

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

- (a) the number of telephone connections provided in the rural areas of the country during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has fixed any target to provide telephone connections in the said areas during the current financial year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which success has been achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) The number of telephone connections in the rural areas registered an increase of 105.82 million during the last three years and the current financial year up to September 2014. Service Areas-wise details are given in the Annexure.
- (b) to (d) The Government has not fixed any target to provide telephone connections in rural areas of the country during the current financial year. However, the Government has taken a number of steps to develop telecom facilities in rural and remote areas of the country. During the first six months of the current financial year the number of telephone connections in the rural areas has increased by 10.32 million. As a result the rural tele-density has increased from 44.01% at the beginning of the year to 45.01% by the end of September 2014.