

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4811
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
INCREASING DEMAND FOR MOBILE AND INTERNET
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

- (a) whether the demand for telecom services like mobile, landline and internet is growing in the country;
- (b) if so, the growth in demand separately for mobile, landline telephone and internet connections during the last three years and the current year, State and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is facing problems in providing best communication services;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to meet the demand and provide international standard telecom services to customers?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b) Service area wise details of number of mobile, landline connections and internet connections for the last three years and current year is placed at Annexure-I, Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively.
- (c)& (d) Service Providers face following challenges in providing telecommunication services in rural & remote areas:
 - (i) Right of Way (RoW) approvals from State Governments & local bodies.
 - (ii) Low population density and difficult location conditions makes service provision financially unviable.
 - (iii) CAPEX (Capital Expenditure) and OPEX (Operational Expenditure) for development of telecom infrastructure in these areas is very high.
 - (iv) Lack of adequate telecom backhaul connectivity.
 - (v) Lack of proper supporting infrastructure (road, electricity supply etc.)
- (e) The Government has several ongoing and forthcoming schemes for improving the penetration telecom in the country. The details of such schemes is given at Annexure-IV.