

11. Transport and Communication

Road Transport

11.1 In fiscal year 2008/09, road construction works are underway with the target of linking three district head quarters (Bajura, Manang and Solukhumbu) to the road network. Total road length at the end of FY2007/08 totaled 19,147 Km, of which black topped road was 5,845 km, graveled was 4,711 km, and earthen (fair weather) road was 8,591 km. Till mid March of the FY2008/09, 14 Km of road has been upgraded to black top level, 18 km to graveled, and 62 Km is newly constructed with the road length to a total of 19,209 Km.

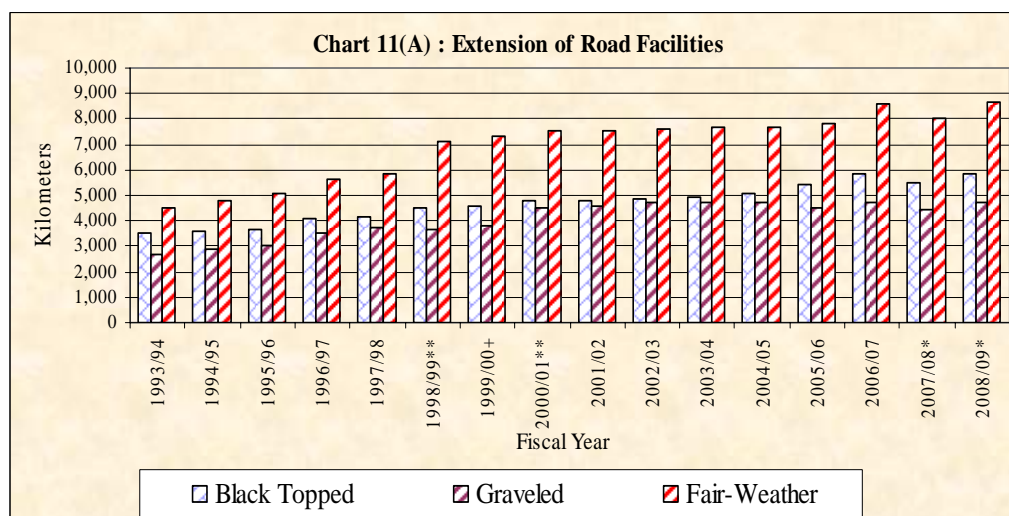
Table 11 (a): Road Networks in Nepal

S.N	Types	Fiscal Year			
		2007/08	2008/09*	Until FY 2008/09**	
				Total	Share/Percent
1.	Black Topped	5,845	14	5,859	30.5
2.	Graveled	4,711	18	4,715	24.5
3.	Fair-weather	8,591	62	8,365	45.0
Total		19,147		19,209	100.00

* Extended road length up to mid-March of FY 2007/08, ** Total by mid-March 2008

Note: Only the roads constructed by Department of Roads are included

Source: Department of Roads, Kathmandu



Transport Vehicles

- 11.2 The number of vehicles (registered) across the country between fiscal years 1989/90 and 2007/08 stood at 703,044. This number, during first eight months of FY2008/09, increased by 8.9 percent (62,431) reaching the total to 765,475. With this, by mid-March of FY2008/09, the average ratio of vehicles per Kilometer of road across the country is estimated to reach 40 from the previous year's 35.

Table 11(b) : Number of Vehicles

Type of Vehicle	Fiscal Year		Total**	Growth percent First (8 months)
	FY 1990/91 - FY 2007/08	FY 2008/09*		
Bus	17,842	1030	18,872	5.8
Minibus	6,904	311	7,215	4.5
Car/Jeep Van	93,266	3,275	96,541	3.5
Tractor	40,104	2,060	42,164	5.1
Motorcycle	4,89,686	52,548	5,42,234	10.7
Tempo (3 Wheeler)	7,353	5	7,358	0.1
Microbus	1,935	33	1,968	1.7
Truck/Dozer/Crane	36,794	1239	38,033	3.4
Pick Up	3,419	662	4,081	19.4
Others	5,741	1268	7,009	22.1
Total	7,03,044	62,431	7,65,475	8.9

*Added Till mid-March of FY 2007/08

** Total since FY 1989/90 through mid-March 2008

Source: Department of Transport Management, Tinkune, Kathmandu.

Policy and Institutional progress

- 11.3 The process of necessary amendments in the existing Transportation Management Acts and Regulations is initiated for total reforms in the transportation management. In addition, the reform process of Transport Management Offices (TMOs) in terms of existing resources, means and working procedures is underway. Similarly, Vehicle Fitness Center has been established at Teku, Kathmandu to make the pollution testing process scientific and systematic, with adoption of Fitness Center related plans to be implemented through the district-level Transportation Management Offices. Likewise, with regard to reforming the existing structure of TMOs, the existing organizational structure in TMO of Bagmati (Zonal Office), has been extended to three sections (Motorcycle Section, Large/Small Vehicle Section and Driving License Section) from one section, and a Zonal level TMO has been established permanently in Dhaulagiri Zone. In addition to this, processes are underway to make the office buildings available for TMOs.

- 11.4 The process is initiated towards modernizing the transport management work through various measures including, regular departmental monitoring of TMOs, and making the record keeping system more scientific and systematic. Likewise, to make transportation management works time-relevant, scientific and modern, processes are underway to change the existing driving license format to Electronic Smart Card.
- 11.5 A Road Maintenance Fund has been established with a view to maintain and repair roads on regular basis in pursuance of the National Transportation Policy and Periodic plans. Road Board is active in maintaining and repairing roads by mobilizing such fund, minimizing the road maintenance cost, and making the repair and maintenance works transparent and effective.
- 11.6 The Road Board Nepal, established under the Road Board Act, 2058 (2002) is carrying out regular, periodic, and emergency maintenance works through the utilization of the amount collected as fuel tax, vehicle registration fee and tolls from road users and deposited in the Road Board Fund.
- 11.7 An Executive Committee, comprising 13 members with the representation of Road Users from various fields has been formed in the spirit of Public-Private Partnership as perceived in the Road Board Act. The Secretariat (of the Board) is actively engaged in the implementation of the Act, Regulations, and Executive Committee decisions.
- 11.8 The Department of Roads and local bodies (DDCs and Municipalities) receive necessary fund from the Road Board Fund for repair and maintenance of Strategic Roads Network and Local Roads Network respectively. Arrangements have been made for DDCs and Municipalities to contribute (or share) 20 percent and 30 percent matching funds respectively for maintenance of roads in their jurisdiction. The entire amount required by the Department of Roads for regular and one-time maintenance of Strategic Roads Network is being ensured. In case of maintenance of Local Roads Network, necessary fund is made available on the basis of the length, and type of the surface of the road and density of transport vehicles.
- 11.9 Beginning from FY2008/09, a process of conditional grant is initiated for repair and maintenance of Local Roads Network based on the Principle of Devolution (of authority).

Table 11 (c): Activities Under the Transportation Sector

S.N	Major works completed	Achievements in First Eight Months
1	Driving Training Centers (No.)	
	Numbers Registered	31
	Numbers Renewed	5
	Number of Vehicles Registered	61,427
2	Driving License (No.)	
	Numbers of new licenses Issued (New)	49,308
	Numbers Renewed	42,702
	Duplicate copies issued/ Vehicle category added	7,170
	Conversion into Nepali registration numbers / Zone changed	529

Source: Department of Transport Management, Tinkune, Kathmandu

Air Service

- 11.10 The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), established with the objective of developing and extending Civil Aviation within and outside Nepal, and making the air flights, air communication, air navigation and air transportation services safe, regular, standard, and effective, has been undertaking safety and regular activities related to civil aviation together with other development and improvement works at airports. Attempt has been made to receive Expert Service through International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) introduce time-relevant reform measures in the organizational structure of the CAAN through review and restructuring of its present organizational structure as necessary. A three-year (2007-2009) interim plan of CAAN is formulated, which is now in effect.
- 11.11 There are altogether 53 airports in the country including, 1 international airport, 5 regional hub airports (Nepalgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, Pokhara and Dhangadi), 41 other domestic airports with 6 airports under construction (Kalikot, Kamal Bazar, Masinechaur, Shitleshola, Simichaur and Khanidanda. Of these, air services are operated at 32 airports.
- 11.12 In the context of improvement and extension of the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Airport Development Master Plan 2015, is prepared with the assistance of ADB and reviewed with simultaneous preparation of a Civil Aviation Sector Development Strategy Plan. Infrastructure study is ongoing based on the aforementioned Plan.
- 11.13 For developing and extending the physical infrastructure through CAAN's own resources as per the Master Plan for Tribhuvan International Airport, selection of local consultants is completed. In addition, detailed study of

the physical infrastructure has been initiated by international level consultants with the technical assistance of ADB. As in the past, construction of roads, sewerage management and drinking water facilities are being carried out in the vicinity of TIA in Gothataar, Koteshwor, Sinamangal etc. this year as well as a part of the Corporate Social Responsibility of CAAN.

- 11.14 Contract is signed, and construction of TIA's runway, taxiway overlay work and expansion of stopover facility for international flights and installation of apron joint sealer has been started. Similarly, as per the TIA's Master Plan, distribution of compensation has been started for acquisition of homes, sheds and land in Koteshwor and Sinamangal areas for the development, extension and security. Approved programs of TIA are being implemented in FY2008/09 as per the work schedule with works expedited with the aim to accomplish them as targeted by the end of the current fiscal year.
- 11.15 Due attention is being paid towards making service provision at the airport more effective and efficient. Moreover, efforts are made for bringing extensive improvement in services for passenger arriving at or departing from TIA in terms of sanitation, terminal management, trolleys and taxi services.
- 11.16 The bids evaluation process is underway for introducing Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system at the TIA, as is compulsory in international practice providing single software facility to airlines for passengers check-in and in e-ticketing in an integrated way.
- 11.17 For the organized aircraft parking to accommodate increasing international flights at the airport, the international apron has been reevaluated, and works are being carried out for adding one more wide-body parking space to the current two, and making the total number of BAYs eight from the current seven. Arrangements of Executive Lounge and Restaurant have been made with a view to provide services of executive standard to tourists, travelers and service seekers. Likewise, 100 new trolleys have been arranged for travelers' comfort, while the process for adding other 250 trolleys is underway with invitation of bids for procurement.
- 11.18 Since operations of types of aircrafts and air services are on the rise, upgrading the quality and extension of services of internal airports is continued to make air service safe, reliable and regular. Development and construction works of additional physical infrastructures are being carried out at the airports. Airports where such constructions are carried out for improving the status of hanger, taxiway, and car park area have been accomplished in FY2008/09. In the process of developing Gautam Buddha

Airport as a regional international airport, acquisition of land and resource identification works are on progress while improvements of existing runway, taxiway and apron are being done. Task of improving the runway, taxiway and apron of Pokhara airport has been accomplished while the task for improving runway, taxiway and apron is underway at the Chandragadhi Airport. Likewise, works like constructions of 1800 meters runway, taxiway, and black topping of Dhangadhi airport have been accomplished making the airport capable of operating up to FOKKER-100 type aircrafts. Construction of parking apron is completed at the Surkhet Airport where 5 airplanes of DHC-6 or others of same size can be parked. In the current fiscal year, construction of rigid parking apron, in which 3 MI-17 helicopters can be parked, has been completed as targeted. Upgrading of runway, taxiway and apron has been accomplished while necessary design and cost estimation for the tower construction is underway at the Janakpur Airport. Similarly, acquisition of land required for the runway extension in Simkot (Humla) Airport has been done and black topping of runway, taxiway and apron is underway.

- 11.19 Construction of various airports for the extension of air services in remote areas is underway. Among some major airports under construction are, Mugu Airport (runway extension and improvement, and partial construction and improvement of apron is going on), Kalikot airport (works related to earth work for the construction of runway has been started), Kangelanda airport (most of the construction work of the runway has been completed and air service is in operation), Kamalabazar Airport (construction work completed but, trial flight could not take place due to various reasons), Thamkharka Airport (runway construction is completed and air service has started), Masine Chaur Airport (Construction work is continued subsequent to Agreement with the local consumers group), Dolpa Airport (the construction work is continued for the runway extension) and Manamaya Rai/Khanidanda Airport (construction work of runway is almost completed).
- 11.20 As per the policy of encouraging private sector airlines for the operation of domestic and international air services, CAAN has issued Airline Operation Certificate (AOC) to 47 airline companies. So far, only 20 such companies have valid AOCs. Out of this, 14 Airlines having AOC are operating their air service. In spite of having valid AOC, 6 airlines companies have not been able to operate their air service.
- 11.21 Out of the valid 20 airlines, 5 airlines are related to recreation and adventure (Aviation sports). Among the 5 airlines related to Aviation sports, one Ultra Light Power Glider and four Para Glider Companies are in operation. In this way, the numbers of Aviation sports-related airlines

and the remarkable extension in the service have given expected service to the tourists, resulting in significant contribution to the tourism industry.

- 11.22 Out of the 20 valid airlines, except the airlines related to Aviation sports, 5 helicopter operators are providing their services. Helicopter operators have made significant contribution in the supply of food, clothes, medicine and other construction materials to hilly and Himalayan regions. Likewise, they are involved significantly in providing close view of the beautiful scenery, mountains and hills to the tourists. In this way, helicopter service is contributing heavily to get rid of harsh life of the people residing in hilly and Himalayan regions and assisting in nation building endeavor.
- 11.23 Among the 20 airlines companies with valid AOC, 10 such companies have Fixed Wing aircrafts. Out of these 10 airlines companies, one serves international sectors only, while three are serving both domestic and international sectors, and the rest six are engaged in promoting domestic air service.
- 11.24 Twenty international airlines companies have been operating regular air services by making Nepal one of their destinations. Five international airlines namely, Yeti Airlines International, Hong Kong Express, Orient Thai, Silk Air, and Dragon Air started their services to Nepal in the last fiscal year, while Bahrain Air has started its services beginning from this fiscal year. With the development and expansion of international airlines services, the tourism industry and trade of Nepal have received additional support.
- 11.25 Skilled technicians are necessary for operating the airlines services. Absence of sufficient number of skilled technical hands has landed many airlines in difficult situation. Taking this reality into consideration, license is issued to Flying School to produce skilled technicians domestically thereby gradually replacing the expatriate workforce engaged in the area. Similarly, license is issued to an institute for conducting recreational and aviation sports related training to individuals in Pokhara and Kathmandu. Both institutes have come into operation recently. It is expected that this would ultimately contribute to the airlines industry through the production of skilled human resource in the country.
- 11.26 Nepal has signed Bilateral Air Service Agreements (ASA) with 35 countries. Those countries are India, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Bhutan, Japan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Maldives, Philippines, Oman, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Pakistan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Austria, France, Luxemburg, Russian Federation, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, UK, United States of America, and Croatia. MoU signed with Bahrain to this effect was

reviewed and amended MoU was signed with revised provisions including operation of additional number of flights with Initials on ASA signed. Likewise, the earlier MoU with Sri Lanka was reviewed and the revised MoU signed with provisions for additional number of flights, and incorporation of 5th Traffic Rights. The revised ASA has also been initialed.

- 11.27 To extend the VHF coverage of Kathmandu Area Control Centre, RCAG Station has been established, which is being test operated after linking it to V-SAT Network. Likewise, the report has been collected from Consultants for the purpose of establishing Alternate Repeater Station upon identification and recommendation of Bhatte Danda of Lalitpur as the proper hill-top in the Kathmandu Valley. Accordingly, drawing/design works are underway for preparing staircases to access the site and conduct Live Test of equipment for installation.
- 11.28 Terms of Reference (ToR) committee is formed and tasks are being carried out to conduct Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) data link communication between Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa, Pokhara and Simara Civil Aviation Offices.
- 11.29 ToR is prepared to conduct feasibility study for establishing ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) at the TIA and Tendering process is underway to carry out the task.
- 11.30 As per the policy of promoting air route in the leadership of ICAO for making the maximum use of Nepal's air space on Trans Himalayan, and East-West International flights, necessary coordination effort with ICAO and other concerned countries is underway for the setting up Trans-Himalayan Route and East-West (Kunming-Kathmandu-Delhi) Himalayan route with maximum coverage of Nepal's air space on long-distance international flights.
- 11.31 The Kathmandu-Lucknow Route B345 has been extended from Kathmandu to Lhasa on coordination between the two Civil Aviation Authorities of China and Nepal in an attempt to establish direct air connection between Nepal and China by linking Kathmandu-Beijing/ Shanghai air routes. In this regard, Letter of Agreement (LOA) has been signed between Kathmandu Area Control and Lhasa Area Control and brought in operation.
- 11.32 Necessary initiations have been made towards concluding LOA in near future on Air Routes between Nepal and India, and ATS Coordination Procedures. Initiation has also been made during Air Route Negotiations between Nepal and India for establishing route L626 between Kathmandu-Mahendranagar-Delhi, to be decided through technical consultations.

- 11.33 Necessary works, including Instrument Flight Procedures and Revision of Air Space, are underway for overall improvement on domestic air routes and air space of different airports. Likewise, the Aeronautical Chart of Nepal has been digitized and the database of the whole procedure, route, approach and departure chart has been prepared. Necessary steps are being taken for the publication of new Aeronautical Chart.
- 11.34 In the course of improving Nepal's air space, the preparation of new edition of AIP Nepal is going on together with reforms on different routes and working procedures. Likewise, the work on time relevant amendment of Air Traffic Control Manual is also underway. With the aim of implementing GPS-based navigation system in current fiscal year, GNSS database has been prepared. Necessary infrastructures are being created to implement GPS approach and departure at two airports (Biratnagar and Chandragadhi) in the beginning.
- 11.35 As per the decision to fully execute all the criteria of Annex-17, the collection of air security measures propounded by ICAO, in all ICAO-member countries as a strategy to be adopted to thwart changing features of threat against air transport security, necessary auditing of Air Traffic Safety was initiated in 2003 and completed in December 2007 under the ICAO Universal Aviation Security Audit Program (USAP). In the process, Nepal's ICAO Aviation Security Audit has been completed in 2006. Implementation of the Corrective Action Plan is ongoing subsequent to preparation, submission, and receipt of the Report based on the Follow-Up-Audit by ICAO. ICAO AVSEC Audit Central Monitoring team is formed to review the progress on activities included in the Corrective Action Plan. Likewise, necessary step is being taken to review the activities CAAN has been carrying out in respect to the audit recommendations.
- 11.36 It is a great challenge to keep flight safety at its highest level due to Nepal's geographical features and difficulties to set up the necessary communication and navigation equipment. Nepal has been actively participating in worldwide security inspection programs conducted by ICAO. Safety culture is fully emphasized with every operator/maintenance organization made aware to mandatorily adopt Safety Management System as guided by ICAO. The existing NCAR, FOR have been revised and issued in January 2009 which are now brought into effect for the implementation of the Standard and Recommended Practices of ICAO. Likewise, Personnel Licensing Requirements (PLR) and Dangerous Goods Handling Requirements (DGHR), 2009 have been prepared and implemented. For upgrading Nepal Civil Aviation to international standard and bring uniformity, NCAR parts 145, 147, and 66 have been

prepared in line with ESA parts 145, 147, and 66 which are now in the process of implementation.

- 11.37 Number of aircrafts in Nepal total 70 comprising 48 fixed-wing aircrafts, 18 Rooter Wing (Helicopter), and 4 Aviation Sports. CAAN has issued commercial pilot licenses to 390 persons, Airlines Transport Pilot (ATPL) to 269 persons, Flights Operation Officer to 57 persons, Ultra Light Aircraft License to 1 person, and Authorization to 163 persons, Flight Engineer to 6 persons, and Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) to 252 persons.
- 11.38 TIA has been conducting 8-Category Services in pursuance of expanding, developing, and strengthening Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Services as set by ICAO. Fire-fighting vehicles have been provided to Pokhara, Simara, Gautam Buddha (Bhairahawa), Biratnagar and Nepalgunj airports, with capacities of availing 5- Category services. Preparation of Tender Documents is in its final phase for upgrading 8-Category Rescue and Fire-fighting services at TIA to 9-Category. Similarly, a Three-year Interim Plan is prepared for upgrading such facilities at other airports in line with ICAO Standards.
- 11.39 Additional skilled manpower has been arranged for the rescue and fire-fighting services and fire fighting vehicles are being repaired and skilled manpower mobilized for the smooth operation of these services.
- 11.40 As per the policy to provide continuity to produce skilled manpower within the country, various training programs including Computer, ATS Refresher, AIP (Pilots), AIP, FD, Fire Fighting, Equipment Operation, AVSEC Field Base, TIA Security Orientation, AFIS refresher, Basic VOR/DME, ATSEP License, Radio Line Technician, Electrical Line Technician Orientation, AVSEC (Officer Level) have been provided through Civil Aviation Training Academy. The Academy, during the first eight months of the current fiscal year 2008/09, imparted trainings to 250 persons in 20 batches.

Information and Communication

Postal Service

- 11.41 Besides delivery of letters and parcels, various other services like the publication of postage stamps, conducting Postal Saving Bank, Money Order Services, E-DV Form service, Express Mail Service and e-post service are being rendered through the Department of Postal Services and the offices under it.

Table 11 (d): Description of Postal Offices by Geographical Distribution

Postal Service	Mountain	Hill	Tarai	Total
Regional Postal Directorate				5
District Postal Office				70
Ilaka Postal Office	170	372	300	842
Additional Post Offices	492	1,541	1041	3,074
Grand Total				3,991

11.42 Four Postal Directorates under the Department of Postal Services, and Kathmandu General Post Office, have been providing services that of District Post Offices as well. Central Money Order Office, Central Postage-Stamps Store, Postal Training Center, and Philatelic Bureau of Kathmandu are the agencies of this Department. Aside from these postal services, the Department, in the first eight months of the current fiscal year, has established 58 Tele-centers including 12 in the mountain districts and 46 in Hilly districts, through which services are being delivered. Postal Saving Bank Services are being provided through 117 various Postal Offices.

Telecommunication Services

11.43 There has been remarkable progress in telecommunication services since last few years. Nepal Telecommunication Authority, the Telecommunications Regulatory body, has issued 15 licenses in the first eight months of the current fiscal year.

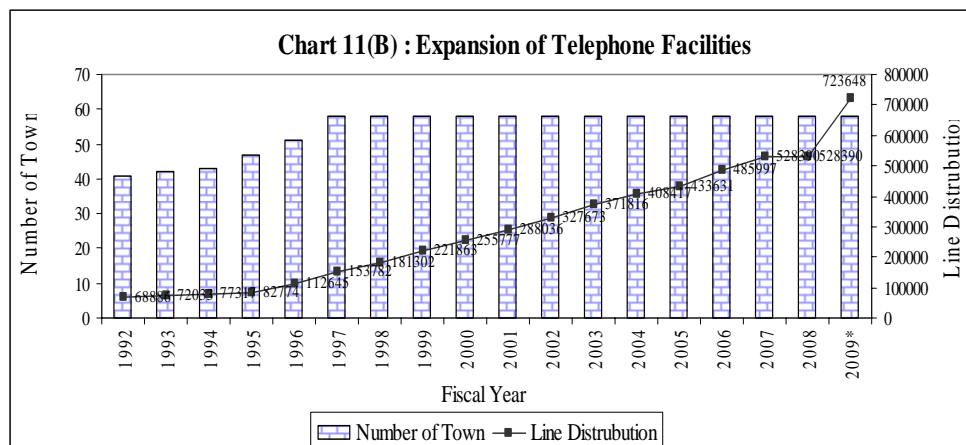
Table 11 (e) : Telephone Service (Exchange) Extension

Items	Fiscal Year			
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09*	Total Mid-March 2009
Grand Total				
a) Number of Urban areas covered	58	58	58	58
b) No of telephone line distributed	485,997	528,390	194,258	723,648
c) Telephone lines per thousand Population**	21.0	23.0	-	31.0

First eight months, ** On the basis of national population census 2001, Population: 23,151,423.

Note: All exchanges are digital automation

Source: Nepal Telicom , Bhadrakali Plaza, Kathmandu.



11.44 The number of VDCs with access to telephone service has reached 3,479 with additional 120 VDCs, and all municipalities are telephone service accessible by mid-March of the current fiscal year. During this period, the number of internet subscribers including the user of ADSL service provided by Nepal Telecom has reached to 115,818. The total number of Nepal Telecom customers reached 5,856,526, including 723,648 PSTN telephone users, 4,163,495 GSM mobile users 722,841 CDMA mobile users, 245,025 CDMA fixed users and 1,517 GMPCS users. Automated Monitoring System is established subsequent to the receipt of Frequency Monitoring Instruments through Telecommunications Sector Improvement Project under the credit support of the World Bank.

Information Dissemination

11.45 Department of Information, Gorakhatra Corporation, Rastriya Samachar Samiti, and Press Council, agencies under the Ministry of Information and Communications, have been disseminating information through print media. By mid-March of 2009, Gorakhatra Corporation has been publishing news and articles in 28 different national languages.

11.46 Press Council Nepal, besides providing interest subsidy on bank loans for the development of journalism, has been giving away Gopal Das Journalism and Women Empowerment Awards. Studio is being prepared for broadcasting audio news from Rastriya Samachar Samiti. The upgrading of regional and Zonal offices of Rastriya Samachar Samiti has been completed. The department of Information has published the Professional Journalism Act, and and 'Nepal' magazine. Training on Basic Journalism and Radio Broadcasting have been imparted to 63 persons.

- 11.47 The total number of registered newspapers in various districts until mid-March 2009 has reached 5,258 of which 398 are daily, 16 half-weekly, 1,957 weekly, 376 fortnightly, 1562 monthly, 301 bi-monthly, 472 trimester basis, 26 quarterly, 69 half-yearly and 81 annually.

Table 11(f): Number of Newspapers by Languages

Languages	Numbers
Nepali	3,643
English	401
Nepali-English	898
Newari	29
Hindi	15
Maithili	15
Tharu	6
Tamang	3
Vojpuri	4
Sanskrit	2
Urdu	2
Tibetan	1
Limbu	2
Doteli	2
Rai	1
Others	234
Total	5,258

Source: Ministry of Information and Communication

Television Services

- 11.48 There are 24 television channels at present including two Government-owned and 20 private sector-owned channels issued with licenses for operation, of which 10 are in operation. In the process of providing transmission signal to every doorstep at free of cost, the GON-owned Nepal Television has extended its program and installed instruments including Transmitter Antenna System at Chamere and Terahtum centers. Likewise, preparation for test transmission is underway at Palpa Telecasting Center. Terrestrial transmission of NTV-2 has been extended at Fulchoki and Daunne Telecasting Centers. NTV-2 has been telecasting programs of inclusive nature. Nepal Television has been extending its transmission signals domestically and internationally through the satellite medium. About 70 percent people has access to its terrestrial transmission signal and with the beginning of operation upon completion of ongoing construction transmission stations will provide access to 71 percent people, which would be 47 percent in terms of its area coverage. Transmission of NTV-2 covers 40 percent of the total population of the country with the total 25 percent of geographical area coverage.

Radio Broadcasting Service

11.49 The government owned Radio Nepal has been broadcasting through Short Wave, Medium Wave and Frequency Modulation. By mid-March 2009, 321 FM licenses were issued to the private sector operators to air programs, of which 162 such stations are now in operation. Radio Nepal's coverage of MW broadcast is 85 percent, FM 40 percent and that of SW is 100 percent. For the expansion of MW and FM, the process to establish relay centers in Darchula, Bajhang, Gorkha and Gulmi is in the final stage. Radio Nepal has been broadcasting news in various national languages and other programs under the inclusiveness program.

Cable Television Telecasting Service

11.50 By the end of first eight months of the current fiscal year, the number of licensed Cable Television Operators has reached 556 with the addition of 39 such operators during this period. The number of cable television operating in mountain region is 58, hilly region is 214 and that in Terai region is 284.

Printing Service

11.51 The Department of Printing has been proposing programs in line with the concept of Security Press with the realization that it is necessary to deliver professional printing services by developing press as an autonomous and competent body. Department of Printing has been carrying out printing tasks like Nepali Citizenship Certificates, Visa Stickers, Economic Surveys, Budget Speeches, Question Papers, Reports of Constitutional Bodies, Foreign Employment Permit Stickers and so on.

Motion Pictures

11.52 Motion Picture Development Board is active for the development, expansion and promotion of motion pictures within and outside Nepal to preserve Nepalese Arts and Cultures. Currently, the process for amendments in Motion Picture Development Act, 2026 (1969) and Motion Picture Development Regulation 2057 (2000) is going on while some Indices in the regulation have been revised. Installation of Equipment in the Theater located in the Board Office Building is ongoing. Motion Picture Monitoring Committee has been established and monitoring of movie theaters is being carried out. As of now, the number of license issued to produce movie totals 110, movies produced are 40, movies screened 57, and the number of foreign movies screened is 10. Likewise, the number of movies censored is 94, the number of advertisements censored is 89, while 36 licenses have been issued for the production of foreign movies.