

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3090
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
TELECOM/POSTAL SERVICES IN KARNATAKA
A. VENKATESH NAIK;RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether telecom and postal services provided in Karnataka and Maharashtra are inadequate as compared to other States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to improve the services in the telecom and postal sectors in these States during 2003-04;
- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether these services are proposed to be made available to each and every village in above States; and
- (f) if so, the time by which the services are likely to be made available?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SU MAHAJAN)

- (a) No, Sir. The telecom and postal services provided in Karnataka and Maharashtra are comparable to those provided in other States.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) & (d) Sir, improvement in services are being done continuously. Some of the plans and innovative programs for the telecom services for the year 2003-04 are given in the Annexure-I. In postal sector new post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are being opened in these States during the year 2003-04, subject to the norms based justification and availability of requisite resources.
- (e) & (f) Sir, as per NTP 1999, basic services are to be provided in each and every village. The details of connections already provided and plans of BSNL for the year 2003-04 are given in the Annexure-II. Besides the PublicSector Undertakings, private telecom operators are also required to provide services in rural areas under the terms of their licences. At this stage of time it is not possible to give the time frame for full coverage of rural areas. The postal services of delivery and collection of mails and sale of postal stamps and stationery are available to all the villages in the country including above States.

ANNEXURE-I

Steps being taken to improve the telephone services in rural areas:

- (i) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and standby generators progressively in more and more under exchanges affected due to power breakdowns.
- (ii) The existing overhead lines are being replaced by underground cables in a phased manner.
- (iii) Non-life expired paper core cable is being replaced progressively by Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) cable.
- (iv) The life expired telephone instruments are being replaced by new telephone instruments.
- (v) New technologies like WLL, C.DOT/PMP and Satellite have been deployed to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas.
- (vi) The booking of telephone complaints have been centralized for small and medium exchanges at SDCA to have round the clock booking facility.

(vii) Use of 5 pair PIJF cable along with 5 pair internal DPs instead of use of drop wire to have pole-less network.

ANNEXURE-II

Details of connections provided and plans of BSNL for 2003-04

Continuous efforts for the expansion of telecom network in all the states including Karnataka and Maharashtra are being made. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has covered 27066 villages in Karnataka Circle and 31514 villages out of total 42467 villages in Maharashtra Circle. BSNL has covered its full share of villages in Maharashtra and the remaining villages are to be covered by private basic service operators. Further, BSNL has planned to provide 1.44 lakh in urban area & 0.48 lakh tentative DELs in rural areas during 2003-04 in Karnataka and 2.4 urban DELs and 71,000 DELs in rural areas in Maharashtra. This includes wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones subject to availability of resources.