

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:43  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003  
WLL SERVICE OF BSNL  
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

- (a) whether the WLL service launched by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. in different States has not been able to pick up well;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to identify the factors responsible for the failure of WLL in various States?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c) 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 (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 43 FOR 23RD JULY, 2003 REGARDING WLL SERVICE OF BSNL.

(a) The first urban WLL equipment with Voice and Data was installed by BSNL at Allahabad in UP(E) circle in January, 2001. The first rural WLL equipment was installed at Hajipur in Bihar circle in April, 2001. Since then the WLL service is picking up progressively. As on 30.6.2003, total installed capacity of WLL is 7.95 lakh lines (1.98 lakh in urban and 5.97 lakh in rural areas). Working connections in the BSNL network are 5.43 lakh (1.12 lakh in urban and 4.31 lakh in rural areas). This service is now available in all the Telecom Circles of BSNL in the country.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) It is not true that the WLL service is a failure in any of the States. In a few circles, rural subscribers are sometimes facing difficulty in making or receiving calls. This is not due to WLL technology but to local infrastructure problems like non-availability of electricity in villages for days together for charging the instrument battery of subscribers. This difficulty is also being addressed by BSNL by enhancing the battery backup time of fixed wireless terminals provided at subscriber premises especially for rural areas - talk time from 2 hours to 8 hours and standby time from 24 hours to 100 hours.