

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2259
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
WLL SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the faulty functioning of the Wireless in Local Loop technology in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the problem;
- (c) the number of WLL phones provided to consumers in the country till 31st March, 2003;
- (d) the number of persons on the waiting list till date;
- (e) whether the BSNL has decided as a matter of policy to provide WLL phones in the rural areas only; and
- (f) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for such a decision?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SRI VASHOK PRADHAN)

- (a) In the initial phase of deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service, there were certain network constraints and coverage problems in the network at few places.
- (b) WLL networks are upgraded and number of BTSs (Base Trans-receiver Stations) are increased to overcome such problems.
- (c) Number of WLL phones provided by Government PSU's as well as private operators as on 31-03-2003 are as under:

MTNL	72,759
BSNL	5,15,919
Private operators	13,91,752

Total: 19,80,430

- (d) Number of persons on the waiting list of BSNL & MTNL as on 30-06-2003 for fixed connections were 18,93,188.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.