

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3177
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
GROWTH OF CELL PHONES .
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

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

- (a) the percentage of growth of Cell Phones during the last three years in the country;
- (b) the share of BSNL in the Cell Phone Industry as on date; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide competitive edge to BSNL to increase its coverage particularly in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI . PRADHAN)

(a) Sir taking the base year as 2000, the percentage of growth of Cell Phones during 2001, 2002 and 2003 in the country is 76.68%, 90.89% and 109.84% respectively.

(b) The number of Cell Phones provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 47,54,853 out of 2,1991,742 Cell Phones provided by Cell Phone Industry in India as on 31st December, 2003.

(c) BSNL has not yet specifically planned coverage of rural areas with mobile service. However, there may be some areas falling enroute to National Highways which get incidental coverage benefit because of coverage of Highways.

ANNEXURE

PERCENTAGE OF GROWTH OF CELL PHONE SUBSCRIBERS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

YEAR	NO OF CELLULAR SUBSCRIBERS	% AGE OF GROWTH
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Base Year 2000 (Jan-Dec) 3107449

2001 (Jan-Dec)	5490322	76.68%
2002 (Jan-Dec)	10480430	90.89%
2003 (Jan-Dec)	21991742	109.84%