

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5938

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005

BSNL EXPANSION PLAN

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has prepared a massive expansion plan involving a sum of Rs. 80,000 crores to triple its subscriber base over the next three years as reported in the `Hindu` dated April 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the investment proposed to be made in rural India out of the said investment plan to clear the backlog, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the telephone connections will be made available on demand in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) BSNL, has prepared a plan for adding 77 million lines over the next three years to its present subscriber base of 46.9 million as on 31.03.2005. The year-wise addition in subscriber base has been planned as below:

(in million lines)

Year	Fixed/WLL	Mobile	Total
2005-06	4.20	20.80	25.00
2006-07	4.15	23.35	27.50
2007-08 (Till December, 2007)	4.50	20.00	24.50
Total	12.85	64.15	77.00

(c) The total investment over the next three years is likely to be Rs. 8400 Crores in rural areas. The Circle-wise details for likely investment in rural areas is given in the Annexure.

(d) It is expected that with the provision of telephone connections according to these plans, the telephones are likely to be available on demand w.e.f. March 2006 in rural areas.

Annexure

Circle-wise details for likely investment in rural areas over the next three years

Sl. No.	Circles/Metro Districts	Likely Investment (In Rs. Crores)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	6
2	Andhra Pradesh	447
3	Assam	95
4	Bihar	596
5	Chhattisgarh	23
6	Gujarat	221
7	Haryana	458
8	Himachal Pradesh	294
9	Jammu & Kashmir	104
10	Jharkhand	48
11	Karnataka	547
12	Kerala	1034
13	Madhya Pradesh	349
14	Maharashtra	797
15	North East-I	26
16	North East-II	33
17	Orissa	136

18	Punjab	415
19	Rajasthan	661
20	Tamil Nadu	340
21	Uttaranchal	32
22	Uttar Pradesh (East)	448
23	Uttar Pradesh (West)	91
24	West Bengal	729
25	Kolkatta	437
26	Chennai	33
	BSNL	8400

North East-I includes Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura

North East-II includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Nagaland.