

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2034
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
IMPROVING RURAL TELEPHONE NETWORK SERVICE .
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that rural landline/mobile telephone network is not functioning satisfactorily in the entire country particularly in Pune;
- (b) whether mobile facility provided by BSNL in remote and rural areas particularly in Pune has failed;
- (c) if so, whether despite continuous complaints the situation has not improved; and
- (d) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to improve the rural telephone network?

Answer

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

- (a) The rural land line/mobile telephone network is by and large functioning satisfactorily. However, in Utur 2K RSU Exchange in Pune, the underground cables were frequently damaged on the bridge and some other locations. About 200 connections were affected due to this. But faults were attended from time to time and all the connections excepting a few are functioning properly now.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Not applicable except one exchange at Utur as mentioned in (a) above.
- (d) Continuous efforts are made to improve the rural telephone network. Measures include connecting all exchanges with reliable media, introduction of Wireless in Local Loop to eliminate the need for underground wires, conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) exchanges in to Remote Switching Units (RSUs) and Provision of maintenance free batteries.