

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
GROWTH IN BSNL LANDLINE AND MOBILE PHONES
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any research on the growth of landline and mobile telephones of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, Year-wise;
- (c) whether any step is being taken to make the landline and mobile telephones of BSNL competitive; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Growth of landline and mobile telephones of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years is given below:

Year	Fixed & Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Connections	Cellular Mobile Connections	Total
2002-03	2531689	2238611	4770300
2003-04	461552	2997829	3459381
2004-05	1093164	4193240	5286404

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from aggressive marketing and offering competitive tariff structure, BSNL is offering state-of-art telecom services to its subscribers.

(d) BSNL launched its cellular mobile service all over the country w.e.f. October 2002 and within a short span, BSNL has acquired subscriber base of 125,12,973 as on 31-10-2005 with widespread coverage including Tehsil Headquarters, National Highways, Important Pilgrimage Centers, Tourist Places etc. BSNL is providing Voice and SMS over its GSM network in all its Licensed Service Areas. Further, in order to support data connectivity, BSNL has launched GPRS and MMS in all its Service Areas. BSNL has also taken action for launching of EDGE (Enhanced Data Rates of GSM Evolution) for provision of high data rate, over its mobile network. In case of landline services, additional value added services on fixed line like SMS etc. are being offered and `phone plus services` are being provided free of cost to landline customers. BSNL has launched broadband services at very attractive tariffs for its landline subscribers. Further, a large scale deployment of WLL network has been done in rural areas to cater to demand from far flung places which cannot be covered feasibly on wireline.

As such BSNL is keeping pace with advancements in technology and providing latest services to its subscribers.