

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3092

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004

GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT OWNED TELECOM COMPANIES

Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government owned telecom companies have failed to keep pace with the private sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the telecom growth in private sector has registered manifold increase as compared to public sector; and
- (d) if so, the details of the plans formulated to increase the public sector telecom growth in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Comparative table showing total telephone connections working with Government owned PSUs and Private Operators as on 31st March for the last four years and their growth rate during last three years is given below:

Government PSUs      Private Operators  
(MTNL & BSNL)

	Telephone connections (in lakh)	Growth rate	Telephone connections (in lakh)	Growth Rate
As on 31.3.01	324.5		38.4	-
As on 31.3.02	381.62	17.6%	68.06	77.2%
As on 31.3.03	431.71	13.1%	114.46	68.2%
As on 31.3.04	464.83	7.7%	300.57	162.9%

(d) In order to ensure increase in the Public Sector Telecom Growth, following steps have been taken:

i) Government PSUs BSNL and MTNL have targeted to provide 105 lakh telephone connectins during current year 2004-05, out of which 90% are cellular & Wireless Local Loop connections which are cost effective and preferred by customers.

ii) Cabinet has approved reimbursement of License Fee & Spectrum charges to BSNL on year to year basis during 10th Five Year Plan for meeting losses incurred by BSNL in Rural Telephony.