

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3059
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
WAITING LIST FOR SIM CARDS
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) the total number of persons provided with BSNL Mobile SIM Cards so far;
- (b) whether there is heavy demand for these SIM Cards;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) the total number of persons seeking the above connection enlisted in the waiting list; and
- (e) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to clear the above waiting list?

Answer

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

- (a) As on 31st July 2004, the Status of the number of the persons in the country having BSNL Mobile SIM Cards is 6230746.
- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) & (d) As a policy, BSNL doesn't maintain waiting list for mobile connections. But due to heavy demand for BSNL's Mobile service, waiting list has been maintained in some of the states and total waiting list in the states where it is being maintained as on 31-7-2004 is 777400. The reasons for huge demand of BSNL's mobile services are affordable tariff, good quality and countrywide availability of the network.
- (e) BSNL is presently augmenting its cellular network capacity from 6 Million lines to 9 Million lines. BSNL further plans to expand the capacity by 15M lines till end 2005 to meet the growing demand for its service.