

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:316
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
MOBILE SERVICES OF BSNL MTNL
Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the mobile services of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are facing stiff competition from the private service providers;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government to clear the waiting list for the pre-paid/ post-paid mobile services of BSNL in the country, particularly Aurangabad district in Maharashtra; and
- (d) the number of BSNL towers likely to be set up in the coming year, State-wise, location-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 316 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2006 REGARDING MOBILE SERVICES OF BSNL/MTNL.

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The mobile services of MTNL and BSNL are facing stiff competition from the private service providers. Although, MTNL and BSNL commenced their mobile services in 2001 and 2002 respectively which is much later than private operators, who started their services in 1995. They have shown overall growth and in the process given a tough fight to the private operators.

Market share of BSNL and MTNL in mobile service as on 30.9.2006.

BSNL

No. of mobile phone of	Percentage share of BSNL
BSNL	Private operator
23695841	86184669 21.57%

MTNL

No. of mobile phone of	Percentage share of MTNL
MTNL	Private operator
2370610	17203882 12.11%

MTNL and BSNL have taken number of measures to improve mobile services in their respective service area as per details below:

A.MTNL:

(i) GSM Mobile Network is continuously being expanded. MTNL has added nearly 10

lacs mobile connections in Delhi/Mumbai in 2005-06 and 3.85 lacs mobile connections up to October, 2006 in Delhi/Mumbai.

(ii) Add latest technology i.e. 3G in the Mobile sector.

(iii) Commissioning of the convergent billing solution which is meant to enhance customer satisfaction in respect of bills of various services, billing dispute resolution and customer care.

(iv) Providing Value Added Services for Mobile subscribers including Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) inline with the emerging trends.

(v) Taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, Customer Service Centres and introducing various methods for bill payment etc.

(vi) Reviewing its tariff for various products and various services so far as to make them customer friendly, competitive and to suit all segments of the society.

(vii) Optimizing its mobile network to reduce congestion and improve coverage and capacity.

(viii) Providing in-building solutions like boosters, additional BTS to improve coverage/capacity of mobile network.

B. BSNL:

(i) It has made a very ambitious plan for expansion of its mobile network. BSNL has already initiated the procurement process to augment its country-wide network capacity by 63.5 million lines progressively in the coming three financial years.

(ii) Aggressively marketing its services and products through wide network of franchises, retailers, STD PCOs etc. A comprehensive Sales and Distribution policy has been made to create a proactive selling network.

(iii) Engaging top ranking Advertising agencies for promoting its brands in the market.

(c) BSNL SIM cards for post-paid and pre-paid mobile services are available in almost all parts of the country. Efforts are being made to clear the waiting list in the remaining parts, wherever they exist, by increasing the capacity of mobile network (Annexure-I). There is no waiting list for pre-paid and post-paid mobile services in Aurangabad district in Maharashtra.

(d) The number of BSNL towers likely to be set up in the coming year (2007-08) State-wise is given in Annexure-II. The location of these towers, being dependent on RF survey and other planning parameters, is planned to be finalized at the time of actual deployment.

STATUS OF WAITING LIST CIRCLE-WISE AS ON 31ST OCTOBER, 2006

Sl.No.	Circle	Pre-paid	Post-paid	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
2	Assam	0	0	0
3	Bihar	0	0	0
4	Jharkhand	0	0	0
5	North East-I	5521	2553	8074
6	North East-II	14341	4672	19013
7	Orissa	0	0	0
8	West Bengal	0	0	0
9	Calcutta Telephones	0	0	0
10	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
11	Karnataka	0	0	0
12	Kerala	0	0	0
13	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
14	Chennai Telephones	0	0	0
15	Haryana	0	0	0
16	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
17	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
18	Punjab	0	0	0
19	Rajasthan	0	0	0
20	Utter Pradesh (E)	0	0	0
21	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	0	0
22	Uttaranchal	0	0	0
23	Maharashtra	54370	0	54370
24	Gujarat	0	0	0
25	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
26	Chhattisgarh	37089	0	37089
	Total	1,11,321	7225	1,18,546

ANNEXURE-II

NUMBER OF TOWERS OF BSNL PROPOSED TO BE INSTALLED DURING FINANCIAL YEAR (2007-08).

Sl. No. Name of Circle No. of Towers proposed to be installed during 2007-08
East Zone

1	Andaman & Nicobar	50
2	Assam	700
3	Bihar	1,100
4	Jharkhand	700
5	North East-I	200
6	North East-II	200
7	Orissa	850
8	Kolkata	800
9	West Bengal	900
	Total	5,500

South Zone

1	Andhra Pradesh	1,500
2	Karnataka	1,500
3	Kerala	1,600
4	Tamil Nadu	1,700
5	Chennai	700
	Total	7,000

North Zone

1	Haryana	400
2	Himachal Pradesh	230
3	Jammu & Kashmir	300
4	Punjab	520

5 Rajasthan 1,250
6 Utter Pradesh (E) 1.300
7 Uttar Pradesh (W) 700
8 Uttaranchal 300
Total 5,000

West Zone

1 Maharashtra 2,500
2 Gujarat 1,500
3 Madhya Pradesh 1,300
4 Chhattisgarh 700
Total 6,000
Grand Total 23,500