

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:666
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
THEFT OF TELEPHONE CABLE
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the incidents of theft of BSNL cables have increased unexpectedly since the private companies were permitted to provide telecom services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, as on date, State-wise;
- (c) the number of incidents for which guilty persons have been identified during the said period in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government has instructed the State Governments to prevent the attempts of blocking of telephone service through cable theft; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Sir, there has been an increase in the number of theft cases of BSNL cables but it cannot be ascertained that increase is due to Private Companies permitted to provide Telecom services.
- (b) State-wise details of theft of cables during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 is given in the Annexure.
- (c) During the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, number of incidents where guilty persons have been identified are 1, 8 and 16 respectively.
- (d) & (e) Sir, matter has been taken up by BSNL with State Governments as well as Police Authorities to prevent such large scale thefts. In addition, the following steps have been taken up by BSNL to curb such incidences of theft-
 - i. Regular patrolling of important cable routes.
 - ii. Lodging FIRs at concerned Police Stations.
 - iii. Persuasion with the Police to check theft of cables.
 - iv. Posting of security guards at cable dumps.
 - v. Coordination with local bodies to minimize the theft.