

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4007
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether after opening telecom sector to private sector, the first choice of the people of the country is still MTNL and BSNL;
- (b) if so, whether Government has fulfilled its promise the telephone on demand;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the waiting list for telephone connections in the country, as on date, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to open new telephone exchanges with latest technology especially in rural areas;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that whole country is telecommunicationally linked?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.MTNL and BSNL being Government Service providers,common man has a trust in both the PSUs. They are doing aggressive marketing to promote their services through various media.

In urban areas, telephone connections are being provided on demand in most of the places through Wiredline or WLL technology. Also, mobile connections are available on demand in all the Circles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

(e) There is no waiting for telephone connections in MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai.The waiting list for telephone connections in the country, as on date, State-wise is given in the Annexure.

(f) & (g): There is a plan to open 92 new Telephone Exchanges in the country as given below:

SL. No. Name of Circle Number of new Exchanges proposed

1. Andhra Pradesh 11
2. Chhattisgarh 08
3. Haryana 02
4. Jammu and Kashmir 05
5. Karnataka 15
6. Madhya Pradesh 02

7 North East-I	07
8. North East-II	01
9. Uttar Pradesh (West)	24
10. Uttaranchal	09
11. Chennai	08

Total 92

As per policy followed by BSNL, new rural exchanges are to be opened at places which are having a minimum demand of 150 within 5 Km radius of the proposed telephone exchange site. It is making all efforts to provide the telephone service through WLL technologies wherever practicable and feasible.

The steps taken by BSNL to provide Telephone on demand in rural areas are given below:

BSNL has deployed WLL network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and far-flung rural areas where connection of telephone is not techno-commercially feasible on landlines.

Remote and far-flung areas which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, are planned to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).

The mobile network of BSNL covers most of the national highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and state highways.

(h) All exchanges in the country are already linked through reliable media i.e., Optical Fiber Cable, Satellite and Microwave systems.