

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
DECREASE IN SUBSCRIBERS OF BSNL
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the number of GSM subscribers of BSNL are decreasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) No Sir.GSM subscribers of BSNL are not decreasing. BSNL is having 38.5 million cellular mobile subscribers as on 31.8.08 vis-À-vis 36.2 million subscribers as on 31.3.08 i.e. a net increase of 2.3 million subscribers during the period.

(c) BSNL has planned to add 15.75 million lines capacity in its network during the current financial year.BSNL has floated the tender for additional 93 million capacity on zonal basis to meet the requirement of mobile services in its area of operation which will improve the coverage in rural area also.Further BSNL plans to expand the Mobile service coverage to the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.