

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
SHORTAGE OF PRE-PAID SIM CARDS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether there are any capacity constraints faced by the BSNL in releasing the pre-paid SIM cards to meet the entire present demand by the customers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints about such scarcity leading to the widespread corruption in the BSNL in distributing pre-paid cards to the customers; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the problem of scarcity of SIM cards?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) BSNL mobile services had been immensely popular with the public with the result that all installed capacities were utilized fully much before anticipation.
- (c) Some complaints were received from certain quarters.
- (d) The existing cellular network having 8.7 million customers is being augmented by another 12 million lines during 2005.