

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:368  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005  
DECREASE IN TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS  
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

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

- (a) whether a decrease in the number of telephone connections has recently been registered in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan to increase the number of telephone connections;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has fixed any targets for providing the telephone connections; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) No, Sir. In fact, there has been a sharp increase in the number of telephones in the recent years. For instance, the number of phones has increased from 4.49 crore in March, 2002 to 9.29 crore in December, 2004.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been planning to meet the increasing demand. BSNL and MTNL are targeting to provide 62.5 million additional telephone connections during 2004-05, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. The private operators are also making substantial contribution in providing additional telephones to meet the increasing demand.