

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:527

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010

EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TELECOM SERVICES

Singh Shri Ravneet

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

(a) the details of the physical as well as the financial targets fixed and achieved for expansion and improvement of the telecom services in the country including Punjab during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government with respect to the areas where the targets fixed could not be achieved during the said period; and

(c) the future strategy of the Government to expand and improve the telecom services in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 527 FOR 3rd MAY, 2010 REGARDING "EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TELECOM SERVICES".

(a) & (b) Madam, the details of the physical as well as the financial targets fixed and achieved for expansion and improvement of the telecom services by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in its licensed area of operation including Punjab during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, State-wise and year-wise, are given in Annexure-I to Annexure-XIII. Similar details on Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in its licensed area of operation in Delhi and Mumbai are given in Annexure-XIV.

The performances of BSNL and MTNL against the yearly Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) targets are reviewed by Department of Telecommunications and Department of Public Enterprises and conveyed to these PSUs for taking corrective actions.

(c) The future strategy of BSNL and MTNL to expand and improve the telecom services in the country is as follows:-

(i) BSNL & MTNL are periodically monitoring network and undertaking Radio optimization in their mobile network to improve the quality of service.

(ii) BSNL plans to expand the Mobile service coverage to all the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.

(iii) BSNL plans to cover around 2,50,000 Panchayats with broadband in next 3 years.

(iv) BSNL plans to cover 100% rural Blocks HQs with broadband connectivity using Wi-Max technology within next one year.

(v) BSNL in collaboration with Department of IT is making around 95000 rural Common Services Centers as broadband enabled.

(vi) The remaining villages allotted by USOF are likely to be covered in a phased manner by February 2011.

(vii) VPTs in the country are being provided as per the directions of the USOF. BSNL is having agreements with USOF for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in villages.

(viii) BSNL has entered into an agreement with USOF with a target to provide 62,302 (Revised) VPTs under Bharat Nirman in the country out of which 61,673 VPTs have been provided upto 31.03.2010 including Punjab. Remote villages having no terrestrial coverage are being covered with VPT facility by using Digital Satellite Phone Terminal.

(ix) BSNL has entered into another agreement with USOF, DOT, New Delhi in February 2009 with a target to provide 62443 VPT in the country in uncovered inhabited villages as per census 2001 out of which 42,384 villages have been covered with VPT facility upto 31.03.2010 including 3425 VPTs provided by Private Basic Service Operators.

(x) MTNL is expanding Data services and Mobile services alongwith upgradation of technology

(xi) Use triple play (Voice, video and data) as an instrument of retention of fixed subscribers and revenue growth.

(xii) Leverage data services to increase customers base and revenues. Provide higher bandwidths than competitors using wire line network, while on other hand provide data capabilities to mobile subscribers using 3G, Wi-Max etc technologies.