

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:621  
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011  
CABLE THEFT  
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the increasing cases of thefts of overhead telephone cables are affecting the telephone services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases noticed during the last three years and the current year and the loss incurred to the telephone operators as a result thereof, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh,
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to lay underground cables for all telecom purposes to prevent thefts; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) By and large there is no spurt in the number of cases of theft of overhead telephone cables faced by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). However, it is difficult and challenging to maintain Quality of Telecom Services in hilly terrain areas of some States like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and North-East where some cables have been laid over head also and thefts of cables occurs occasionally.

(c) To minimize the cases of overhead cable thefts, BSNL has taken the following steps:

# Close monitoring of interruption report of services.

# Increased patrolling on routes.

(d) & (e): It is very difficult to lay all telephone cables underground in the hilly terrain areas in some States like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and North-East. Some cables have to be laid over head also.