

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1069
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIVITY
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide Telephone/Mobile connections in all locations of the country including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which all the locations of the country including West Bengal are likely to be covered with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) facility;
- (e) the total number of SIM cards provided in the country, State-wise including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar during the first half of the current financial year;
- (f) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) facility in the country especially in the above urban areas in West Bengal; and
- (g) if so, the time by which the said facility is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. BSNL has the vision to provide Telephone/Mobile connections in all locations of the country including Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar in the State of West Bengal. The provision of mobile network being capital intensive can be done only in phases and as such BSNL is providing services in phased manner based on techno commercial viability of different areas. The coverage details are given in the Annexure.

MTNL is already providing Telephone / Mobile connections to the customers in its service areas i.e. Delhi and Mumbai.

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

(e) During the period 01.04.2009 to 30.06.2009, BSNL has made available total 1.46 crore SIM cards to all its telecom circles for providing mobile connections. The circle wise detail is given in the Annexure. During this period, the number of SIM cards made available to Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar are 8342, 7352 & 6243 respectively.

MTNL has also made available sufficient SIM cards in its Delhi and Mumbai units. MTNL has provided 80,628 GSM connections in Delhi and 77,177 GSM connections in Mumbai from 01.04.2009 to 30.06.2009.

(f) & (g) Yes, Sir. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services are being enhanced in urban areas in the country including urban areas of West Bengal. The same is likely to be implemented by 31.03.2010.

Adequate capacity is available in telephone (PSTN) and mobile (CMTS) services in MTNL. MTNL is providing telephone services on demand. Further, MTNL has already launched 3G GSM services in both Delhi and Mumbai, which provides additional facilities like Video text, mobile TV, High speed data etc. to the customers.