

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1390
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
SHORTAGE AND THEFT OF CABLES
Manian Shri O. S.;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

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

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.(SMT.) KILLI KRUPARANI)

(a)& (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that there is no shortage of cables (Underground Telephone cables) in its Telecom Circles/Districts situated in different parts of the country including Kumbakonam (Tamilnadu Telecom Circle) except some shortage in certain telecom circles viz. Gujarat Telecom Circle, Chattishgarh Telecom Circle, Himachal Pradesh Telecom Circle, Odisha Telecom Circle, Rajasthan Telecom Circle, Uttarakhand Telecom Circle and Chennai Telecom District. BSNL makes inter-circle cable diversions to meet the requirement of shortage wherever it exists. BSNL procures underground telephone cables from time to time to meet its additional requirements of such cables.

(c)& (d) BSNL has reported that a few cases of theft of overhead telephone cables did occur in some Telecom Circles. The theft cases have been reported to the concerned local police by the field units of BSNL.

The details of theft cases and the loss incurred as a result thereof, is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House shortly.

(e) & (f) All the telephone cables are laid underground except few exceptions in remote and hilly areas where laying of cables underground on rocky terrain is difficult.