

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:317

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015

GROWTH OF LANDLINE TELEPHONES

Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao;Shiyal Dr. Bharati Dhirubhai

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

- (a) whether the growth of landline telephone connections has declined in comparison to the growth of mobile telephones over the past few years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the shortage of telephone cable and other equipment are hampering the growth of landline connections and also result in faulty telephone lines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise including Gujarat and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to improve the landline and mobile services of the telecom PSUs to compete with private players?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 317 FOR 18TH MARCH, 2015 REGARDING "GROWTH OF LANDLINE TELEPHONES".

(a) Yes. The growth of landline telephone connection has declined in comparison to the growth of mobile telephones over the past few years. The details are as under:

| At the end of March | Landline phones in Million | Mobile phones in Million | Total phones in Land line | Annual growth in (%) | Annual growth in (%) | Annual growth in Total telephones (%) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2012 | 32.17 | 919.18 | 951.35 | -7.37 | 13.26 | 12.41 |
| 2013 | 30.21 | 867.81 | 898.02 | -6.09 | -5.59 | -5.61 |
| 2014 | 28.5 | 904.52 | 933.02 | -5.66 | 4.23 | 3.90 |
| 31.01 .2015 | 26.87 | 952.25 | 979.12 | -5.72 | 5.28 | 4.94 |

(b)&(c) There is no shortage of cables and other equipments.

(d) BSNL and MTNL are taking several steps to enhance revenues through investments to strengthen their network and focus on customer care and service delivery to improve quality of service.

The investment projects being undertaken by BSNL include:

Augmentation of its mobile network as part of its Phase-VII Project to create additional capacity of 15 million lines at an estimated cost of Rs. 4804.77 crores. This will result in addition of 14421 2G sites and 10605 3G sites across the country.

Replacement of the entire network of wireline local exchanges by Internet Protocol (IP) enabled exchanges and deployment of Next Generation Network (NGN) equipment based on the latest architecture gradually to replace entire legacy telephone exchanges at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 crores.

Migration of entire C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) legacy telephone exchanges with technology solutions being developed by C-DOT at an estimated cost of Rs. 350 crores.

The new projects taken up by MTNL are:

Augmentation of mobile network to enhance coverage and capacity by adding 1080 3G sites and 800 2G sites in Delhi and 1080 3G sites and 566 2G sites in Mumbai. The packet core capacity (Data handling capacity of network) will be upgraded to 10 Gbps in Delhi and Mumbai.

Augmentation of Microwave (M/W) backhaul network to support the enhanced speed.

Migration of legacy telephone exchanges network to internet protocol (IP) based New Generation Network (NGN) exchanges in collaboration with C-DOT.

Apart from the above, BSNL and MTNL are taking various other steps to improve their mobile network. The details of these steps are as follows:

Monitoring of the Fault Repair Service System.

Deployment of modern and state of art CDR (Call Detail Record) based Billing & Customer care system.

Establishment of Customer Service Centers at all important locations in the country with "single window concept" to facilitate friendly interactions with the customers.

Replacement of weak batteries and power plants to improve network uptime

Regular Radio Frequency (RF) optimization tests.