

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1343
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
TELEPHONE CONNECTION ON DEMAND
SURESH CHANDEL

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide technologies having low operation cost and minimum maintenance and cheap and reliable service for rural and remote areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide telephone on demand throughout the country; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the time by when telephone connections are likely to be made available on demand?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI J. PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government PSU namely Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to induct WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) System having low operation cost, minimum maintenance, reliable and cheap compared to wired line to provide telephone facility in rural and remote areas.

(b) & (c): The demand of telephones is a dynamic process. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has drawn year wise plan to enhance the communication network subject to the availability of resources. It has been planned to enhance the network by addition of 14 lakh of wired lines and 16.61 lakh of WLL lines during the year 2003-2004 in the country to clear the waiting list of 18.07 lakh lines as on 31.3.2003. The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has already made all most all the areas as 'Telephone on demand' except in few technically non feasible pockets.