

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
SHORTAGE OF BSNL CASH CARDS IN RAJASTHAN
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of cash cards of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether instances of black marketing of cash cards of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited have come to the notice of the Government in the State particularly in Jodhpur district; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) & (b): Release of pre-paid connections has been temporarily controlled due to capacity constraints. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is already in the process of expanding the network in the state by 8,50,000 lines capacity. Subject to the availability of capacity, new pre-paid connections are expected to be released from June, 2005.
- (c) & (d): Some instances of black marketing were reported in the media and through public complaints in Jodhpur/Jaipur for pre-paid cards. The remedial action taken to counter the same are as below:
 - (i) Purchase of Recharge coupons of Rs. 2000/Rs. 1000 was made compulsory for getting new cash cards.
 - (ii) Vigilance Cell of Rajasthan circle conducted surprise inspection of the distributor/Franchise network and customer service centers for smooth selling of pre-paid cash cards.
 - (iii) Customer's documents are being thoroughly verified before registration of new connection.