

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4865
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
FUNDS TO TELECOM SECTOR
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

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

(a) the amount earmarked for the development of Communication system in various States in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period and the details of amount spent so far, State- wise and year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the Communication system in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The outlays and the amount spent for the development of Communication system by BSNL in various States in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period is given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(b) To improve the communication system in the country, several policy and regulatory initiatives have been taken. A radically forward-looking Telecom Policy- 1999 is in the process of implementation. The Policy encourages convergence between telecom, information technology and media. As per the policy, initiatives have been taken to ensure level playing field for all the operators and attract private investment. For providing rural telephony, a non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund has been created to support the telecom operators providing their services in rural areas. An amount of Rs. 1814.50 crore has been provided through this fund during 2002-03 to 2004-05. To encourage broadband connectivity in the country at a faster pace, Broadband Policy has been announced in October, 2004 which is under implementation. Efforts are also on to meet the spectrum requirement of the fast expanding wireless telephony. The telecom sector now is open for free competition and as a result, tariffs have drastically declined during the last few years, benefiting the consumers at large.

Today, all the Telephone Exchanges are digital electronic and are connected on reliable media. Internet connectivity has been provided in all the district headquarters. Further, of the 6.07 lakh villages in the country, 5.31 lakh have been provided Village Public Telephones as on 31.3.2005.

Annexure-I

STATE WISE / YEAR WISE OUTLAYS DURING THE TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN
(2002-07) FOR CAPITAL WORKS BY BSNL & MTNL

S.N	Name of State	(Rupees in crores)		
		Year		
O.	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	11.67	13.85	18.21
2.	Andhra Pradesh	873.70	492.35	742.57
3.	Assam	135.81	180.66	205.47
4.	Bihar	404.22	322.20	393.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	112.81	116.44	75.24
6.	Gujarat	993.20	671.23	326.42
7.	Haryana	313.28	306.24	300.15
8.	Himachal Pradesh	110.43	113.86	162.72
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.97	126.06	155.85
10.	Jharkhand	242.37	130.43	167.08
11.	Karnataka	604.14	619.71	840.46
12.	Kerala	787.22	977.69	859.02
13.	Madhya Pradesh	392.79	368.59	248.67
14.	Maharashtra	1192.94	958.46	549.41
15.	North East	130.23	151.55	165.65
16.	Orissa	232.14	192.22	267.84
17.	Punjab	587.67	481.76	434.86
18.	Rajasthan	463.89	480.83	502.47
19.	Tamil Nadu	906.79	655.39	977.08
20.	Uttar Pradesh	907.81	734.94	900.97
21.	Uttranchal	124.64	89.14	106.81

22. West Bengal	637.60	558.93	840.84
23. Others*	1540.68	1865.46	2409.09
TOTAL:	11819.00	10608.00	11650.00

\$ Others include Project Circles, Maintenance Regions, Training Centres, Telecom Factories etc.

Note: The outlay for Tenth Five Year Plan for MTNL (Delhi & Mumbai) is Rs. 11955.46 crore.