

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6785
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION OF WORKS IN TELECOM SECTOR IN WB
Mahato Shri Bir Sing

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

- (a) the details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector;
- (b) whether the said works in regard to the telecom sector are moving at a very slow pace in the rural areas; and
- (c) 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. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector are given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. For development of network in the rural remote areas, following steps are being taken:

- (i) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas to substitute the landline network.
- (ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 Kms against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms for landline connectivity wherever such demand exists.
- (iii) BSNL is deploying its mobile network in all the Highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and State Highways giving incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.
- (iv) 1,07,200 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs), 400 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) and replacement of 8939 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) Village Public Telephones
- (VPTs) have been planned by BSNL in rural areas of West Bengal during the year 2005-06.

Annexure

The details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector

DEVELOPMENT			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sl. No.	Work Item				
I. West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)					
1.	New Telephone Exchange	Urban	12	4	6
		Rural	68	12	14
2.	OFC (RKMs.)		2805.143	1022.577	505.8
3.	Broadband Connections	Urban	--	--	24
4.	WLL Connections	Urban	295	1181	3628
		Rural	18028	6497	23015
5.	Cellular Connections	Urban	66727	87354	104721
II. Kolkata					
1.	New Telephone Exchange	Urban	127	44	27
2.	OFC (RKMs.)		554.889	327.573	616.251
3.	Broadband Connections	Urban	--	--	5043
4.	WLL Connections	Urban	2454	18932	- 937
5.	Cellular Connections	Urban	30244	7242	222613

EXPANSION

Sl. Work Item No.		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
I. West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)				
1.	Expansion of WLL Urban Capacity	719	1780	720
	Rural	17235	42720	17280
2.	Expansion of Urban Cellular Capacity	37500	95190	99768
II. Kolkata				
1.	Expansion of WLL Urban Capacity	11500	29500	4400
2.	Expansion of Urban Cellular Capacity	15000	30000	246400

UPGRADATION:

Sl. Work Item No.		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
I. West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)				
1.	SBM to RSU conversion	39	187	74
2.	C 256 conversion to AN-RAX	0	304	514
II. Kolkata				

There are no SBM and C-DOT telephone exchanges in Kolkata Telecom District, therefore, there is no conversion of telephone exchanges since 2002. *****