

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6897
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
MOBILES PHONE COMPANIES
Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) the names of the five top mobile companies which are providing mobile phones in the country alongwith their subscribers;
- (b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, a Government enterprise, has failed to cross the private mobile operators' subscribers;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd., M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., M/s Idea Cellular Ltd. and M/s Hutchison Max Telecom Pvt. Ltd., are the top five mobile phone companies, which are providing mobile service in the country. The number of subscribers of these companies as on 31st March 2005 are 104.78 lakhs, 94.07 lakhs, 93.30 lakhs, 31.89 lakhs and 15.12 lakhs respectively.

(b)to(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been licensed to provide GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) based cellular mobile service in all the Service Areas of the country except Delhi and Mumbai. BSNL launched its countrywide GSM mobile service except in Delhi and Mumbai w.e.f. October, 2002 onwards progressively and within a short span of two years and 6 months, BSNL has 94.07 lakhs cellular subscribes as on 31.03.2005. BSNL further proposes to augment its GSM network capacity by 14 million lines in the current year to ensure good Quality of Service (QOS) and to meet the overwhelming demand.