

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
INTRODUCTION OF 3- G TECHNOLOGY
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make available 3-G Technology to mobile subscribers;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made available;
- (c) the number of people enlisted in the waiting-list for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) Sim Cards at present;
- (d) the schemes formulated by the BSNL to exhaust the said waiting-list;
- (e) whether the Government has identified the reasons for delay in the availability of Sim Cards;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the extent to which introduction of 3-G Technology will reduce the waiting list?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 205 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2005 REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF 3-G TECHNOLOGY.

- (a) & (b) While no timeframe has been fixed for introduction of 3G technology, it is expected that roll out of 3G services may commence in next financial year.
- (c) BSNL has registered waiting list of around 13.2 lakh for Cellular Mobile connections as on 31.10.2005.
- (d) BSNL has plans to expand its cellular network capacity by 14 million lines during the year 2005-06 to meet the existing as well as future demand.
- (e) to (f) There is no scarcity of SIM Cards in BSNL. However, due to capacity constraints, SIM Cards are being issued by BSNL progressively commensurate with the capacity and to ensure Quality of Services. BSNL is augmenting its network continuously to meet the demand for its cellular mobile connections across the country.
- (g) With the introduction of 3G technologies, it is expected that some of existing mobile customers opting for 3G services would migrate to 3G network, thus creating additional capacity in the 2G network for the new subscribers.