

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2144
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
SHORTAGE OF MOBILE CONNECTIONS IN KARNATAKA
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) connections in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the time by which the shortage of BSNL Mobile connections is likely to be met; and
- (d) the number of BSNL Mobile subscribers in Karnataka as on date, location-wise?

Answer

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

- (a) Sir, due to constraints in the GSM network capacity, release of BSNL Cellular connections is controlled.
- (b) & (c) BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network in Karnataka by 8,02,354 lines and has set a target of releasing 5,00,000 cellular connections during the current financial year. Mobile connections are expected to be available on demand with the availability of capacities planned for roll out.
- (d) For mobile operations, the circle is viewed as a local area and the subscriber can freely roam within the state. The number of cellular connections provided by BSNL in the State of Karnataka as on 31-10-2005 is 8,78,919.