

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:76

ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006

LANDLINE TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

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

- (a) The number of land line telephone connection subscribers as present with MTNL and BSNL;
- (b) Whether there is a decrease in the number of landline connections with MTNL and BSNL;
- (c) If so, the exact number of landline connections surrendered during each of the last two years;
- (d) The relative increase in mobile connections during the above period; and
- (e) The efforts made by the Government to increase landline connections vis-à-vis mobile connections?

Answer

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

(a) The total number of landline connections in respect of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on 31.01.2006 is 3796479.

The total number of landline connections in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.12.2005 is 35156504.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The number of landline connections surrendered during each of the last two years and the current year as on 31.01.2006 and 31.12.2005 in respect of MTNL and BSNL are as follows:

As on MTNL BSNL

2003-04	377242	3260135
2004-05	292438	3417052
31.01.2006	215479	
31.12.2005	2943783	

(d) The relative increase in mobile connections (GSM + CDMA) are given below:

As on MTNL BSNL

2003-04	110270	2997829
2004-05	519006	4193240
2005-06 (31.01.2006)	688305	
2005-06 (31.12.2005)	4847066	

(e) The efforts being made by MTNL and BSNL are given separately in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

MTNL is taking number of steps to retain the landline subscribers as well as to increase the connections:

(i) Landline network is being improved continuously to reduce faults and MTTR. The fault rate has been coming down gradually.

(ii) Value added services like gaming, colour ring back tone, news etc. are proposed to be provided to landline customers in line with the merging trends shortly.

(iii) MTNL has launched broadband services under the brand name of Triband for the landline customers. The services have become very popular. The service provides voice and high speed internet on landline connections. Broadcast TV and video on demand are proposed to be made available on the same telephone line shortly.

(iv) MTNL is reversing its tariff of landline from time to time to meet the requirement of all segment of society.

(v) Various billing options are available for convenience of landline customers.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

BSNL has already initiated action to motivate the subscribers has been making all efforts to retain its landline customer base. Some of the initiatives that BSNL has taken to reverse this trend include:

(i) Value added features are being offered to landline subscribers just like those in mobile services.

(ii) BSNL has launched Broadband in January, 2005 and is offering these services to its landline customers also.

(iii) BSNL has launched the One India plan with uniform STD rates throughout the country to be implemented from 1st March, 2006.

(iv) BSNL has relaxed norms of laying of cable from 2.5 Kms to 5.0 Kms from the existing telephone exchange for provision of telephone connections where such demands exist.

(v) The paper core cable is being gradually replaced by Jelly Filled Cable and the external plant is also being converted to poleless network.