

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:83  
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006  
MODERNISATION OF TELECOM SERVICES  
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated steps to modernize the telecom services in the country in the present scenario of growing competition from the private players; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith budgetary allocation made for such modernization/upgradation during the last three years, year-wise and circle-wise, particularly in West-Bengal?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have taken several steps to modernize their network and improve telecom services in the present scenario of growing competition from the private players.

(b) BSNL has taken up following Upgradation/Modernization plan in West Bengal:

(i) Cellular Mobile service has been planned with additional capacity of 7 lakh lines in West Bengal Telecom Circle and 6.25 lakh lines in Kolkata Telecom District.

(ii) Broadband services have been planned in important cities like Kolkata, Durgapur, Silguri, Darjeeling, Haldia, Asensol, Kharagpur and Gangtok.

(iii) Budgetary allocation in the last three years for developmental activities in West Bengal Telecom. Circle and Kolkata Telecom district is given below:

Funds Allocated (Amount Rs. in Crores)

Year	West Bengal Circle	Kolkata Telecom District	Telecom
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2003-04	324.66	174.95	
2004-05	435.25	267.89	
2005-06	598.76	278.39	