

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4220
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW SIM CARDS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) whether the waiting list of millions of people is pending for a long time due to delay in distribution of new SIM Cards in the country specially in Uttar Pradesh (Eastern) Telecommunication circle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that a large number of subscribers have surrendered their telephone connections;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Sir, a total of 13,07,558 applicants are waitlisted in the country for GSM mobile services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Out of these, 1,84,085 applications are in Uttar Pradesh (East). BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network capacity and the availability of the same has progressively helped in reducing the waiting list in Uttar Pradesh (East) from 6,17,463 as on 31-03-2005 to 1,84,085 as on 30-11-2005.

(c) & (d) A total of 23.02 lakh fixed telephone lines were disconnected/surrendered in BSNL during the year 2005-06 till 31-10-2005. Net growth in landline telephony has been affected due to reasons such as preference of customers towards wireless services due to which surrenders in landline phones are being observed over the last few years. Some other reasons are, shifting/transfer of customers to other places, closure of firms, disconnection due to non-payment and personal reasons.

(e) BSNL has been making all efforts to arrest the surrender of landlines. Some of the initiatives that BSNL has taken to reverse this trend include:

1. Value added features are being offered to landline subscribers just like those in mobile services.
2. BSNL has launched Broadband in January, 2005 and is offering these services to its landline customers.
3. Introduction of pole less infrastructure to reduce faults.