

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:898

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006

EXPANSION OF I.T. SECTOR

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Ganesh

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

:-

- (a) whether the Government has any plan for expansion of IT services including mobile and broad band service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the proposed estimated expansion against the existing capacity and the expenditure involved; and
- (d) the ways and means of meeting the total expenditure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d) : With regard to broadband, Government has announced Broadband Policy 2004 to accelerate growth of Broadband services in the country. Broadband Policy envisages 20 million broadband subscribers by 2010 . BSNL in collaboration with DOT is presently providing broadband connections in 233 cities catering to 4.2 lakh broadband customers. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) cellular subscriber base is 1.43 Cr. which covers all the 21 out of 23 Licensed Service Areas which excludes Delhi & Mumbai. The present Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) cellular Mobile Phone Subscriber base is 6.94 Lakhs and 8.32 Lakhs in Delhi and in Mumbai respectively. MTNL and BSNL have expansion plans using 3G technologies.