

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3935  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006  
AUGMENTATION OF CELLULAR PHONE EQUIPMENTS  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the BSNL has recently floated tenders for augmenting cellular phone equipments for the purpose of expanding upgrading Cellular Network in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the BSNL is expected to add 20 million cellular users, yearly after upgradation of the Cellular Network; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has floated a tender for expanding its cellular network by 45.5 million lines in North, East and South Zone during the next three years. This also includes expansion of its cellular network in rural areas. For West Zone, 18 million lines are planned to be augmented.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Capacity of 6 million lines in West Zone, 5 million lines each in South and North Zones and 4 million lines in East Zone are planned to be added each year.