

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
IMPROVING TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the rural telecom services are often disrupted due to various technical faults in telephone and mobile connections provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve telephone and mobile services in rural areas;
- (d) whether the alleged poor network of BSNL is indirectly beneficial to private mobile companies; and
- (e) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 152 FOR 2ND AUGUST, 2006 REGARDING IMPROVING TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) & (b) Sir, telecom services in rural areas of the country are sometimes affected due to power supply problems, exchange faults, lightning and link failures.

(c) Following steps are taken/being taken by BSNL to further improve telephone and mobile services in the rural areas:-

1. Connecting all Telephone exchanges on reliable digital/transmission media.
2. Introduction and addition of Wireless in Local Loop Systems (WLL) to cover larger rural areas.
3. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs)
4. Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/media on daily basis.
5. Conversion of SBM (Single Base Module) into RSUs (Remote Switching Unit)
6. Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges)
7. Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.
8. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.
9. Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
10. Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90~300V.
11. Do's and Don'ts have been issued to customers to increase their awareness on proper use of FWTs so as to minimize FWT related faults.
12. Replacement of MARR phones by land lines or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) phones.
13. Cellular Mobile network of BSNL is being continuously augmented, optimized and monitored to meet Quality of Service (QoS) parameters fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.