

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2104
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN GUJARAT
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh

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

- (a) whether the telephone facilities in Banaskatha and Patan districts of Gujarat are unsatisfactory;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being 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, telecom facilities of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Banaskatha and Patan Districts of Gujarat are generally satisfactory. However, there have been instances of failure of telephone exchanges as well as media during the last six months due to severe rains, cutting of optical fiber and other cables by highway authorities due to expansion of highways etc. Actions were taken to restore the facilities expeditiously.

(c) Following steps have been taken/being taken by BSNL to further improve the telecom services:

- i) Connecting all telephone exchanges on reliable digital media.
- ii) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by Jelly filled cables and other systems in phased manner.
- iii) Creation of Pole less network to reduce drop wire.
- iv) Introduction and addition of Wireless in Local Loop system to cover larger rural areas.
- v) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC).
- vi) Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/transmission media.
- vii) Conversion of SBM(Single Base Module) into RSUs (Remote Switching Units).
- viii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- ix) Provision of maintenance-free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.
- x) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural areas including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.
- xi) Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
- xii) Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300V.
- xiii) Provision of more Base Transceivers Stations (BTS) to enhance the coverage of WLL System.
- xiv) 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.
- xv) Provisioning of additional mobile BTs for better coverage in the areas.