

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:427
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
WAITING LIST
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

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

- (a) whether the Government is in a position to provide telephone connections within three months to those who are on the waiting list for more than one year;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which the Government will clear the waiting list;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to provide WLL connections to those who are on the waiting list in Shajapur and Devas districts of Madhya Pradesh;
- (e) if so, the likely time of providing such connections;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide mobile service in the next three months in Madhya Pradesh in the towns having population more than twenty thousand; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAY ANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g) 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 (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 427 FOR 25TH AUGUST, 2004 REGARDING WAITING LIST.

(a) to (c) Telephone Connections are provided by Service Providers, both in the Public and Private sectors. There are two Public Sector Units viz., Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) who are providing telephone connections in the country, in addition to Private Sector Service Providers.

While BSNL is constantly making efforts to improve its infrastructure and to provide telephones, either through Wireline or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), it is not in a position to provide telephone connections within three months to all those who are waiting for more than one year. This is due to the fact that planning, purchase and installation of the desired equipment takes time. However, BSNL is endeavouring to provide connections to all the waitlisted persons by March, 2005, except those cases falling in Technically Non Feasible (TNF) areas, i.e. those which fall beyond the permissible length of the cable networks (approximately 5 Km from an existing telephone exchange) and also falling in a shadow area (making it difficult to be reached by WLL). The percentage of such cases is expected to be around 10 to 15 percent, depending on the terrain and local conditions.

In case of MTNL, whose operations cover Delhi and Mumbai, there is no waitlist in Delhi. There are 384 cases in Mumbai, which are pending mainly due to lack of permission from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for laying of cables. MTNL is making efforts to provide Fixed Wireless Terminal Telephones (FWT) to all these cases in 2 to 3 months.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. BSNL is contemplating to provide WLL connections where fixed wire connections are not feasible. Except in TNF cases, the connections are likely to be provided in these two Districts before the end of March, 2005.

(f) & (g) BSNL has already provided coverage through mobile services in all the District Headquarters (barring the recently created District headquarters of Anoopur) and plans to cover all the Tehsil headquarters before March, 2005. While BSNL's plans are not drawn up on population basis, the above measure is likely to cover most towns having a population of more than 20000 persons in Madhya Pradesh.