

[28 April, 2005]

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The network capacity is being augmented by about 1 lakh lines for which equipment has been received and is planned to be commissioned by May, 2005.

BSNL has also taken action to further augment the mobile network capacity in Bihar by 4.55 lakh lines during 2005 to meet the over-whelming demand.

**Demand-Supply Scenario of BSNL Mobile Phones in Orissa**

3737. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Districts of Orissa have not been fully covered by BSNL cellular service;

(b) if so, the districts which have been left out;

(c) whether there is a big gap in the demand-supply scenario for BSNL mobile phone service in Orissa; and

(d) the number of towers set up so far and the target for the current year in providing mobile phone service in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided cellular mobile service in all the district headquarters of Orissa.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post-paid mobile connections are being provided on demand, but due to capacity constraints, release of pre-paid connections is temporarily controlled.

(d) BSNL has so far commissioned around 300 radio base stations for cellular mobile services in the state with a capacity of 2,44,900 lines and expansion of the network capacity by additional 5,00,000 lines during the current year is in progress.

**Amendment in the Indian Patent Act**

3738. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: