

11. Rationalise rail freight rates for coal transport.
12. Extend infrastructure status to the coal industry. Lower duties on capital goods imported for coalmines.
13. Institute an independent regulatory mechanism for the coal sector.
14. Review the royalty on coal and consider switching to an ad-valorem basis.

Foreign investment in coal mines

†3498. SHRIJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to allow foreign companies to make hundred per cent investment in the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(c) the policy of Government regarding this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The Government has reviewed the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and decided to increase FDI caps to 100% and permit it under the automatic route for coal and lignite mining for captive consumption by power projects, iron and steel, cement production and other eligible activities permitted as per the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

Modernisation of Telecom services

3499. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the present scenario of growing competition from the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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private players Government have initiated steps to modernize the telecom services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for modernization/upgradation during the last three years, year-wise, circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two telecom operating Public Sector Enterprises *viz.* Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have taken several steps to modernize and update their network and improve telecom services to meet the competition. Details of steps taken by MTNL and BSNL for modernization/Upgradation of telecom network are given as under-Important Steps taken by MTNL and BSNL for modernization/ upgradation of telecom network

1. Rapid expansion of cellular mobile services in all the service areas. Circle-wise achievements of cellular phone connections during last three years are at statement-I (See below).
2. Provision of broadband services Statement-II (See below).
3. Provision of internet connections Statement-III (See below).
4. Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology in the network. Statement-IV (See below).
5. Creation of poleless outdoor network progressively to reduce fault rate.
6. Replacements of worn out Paper Core Cable by Poly insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) Cable.
7. Replacement of life expired E-10B Exchanges with New Technology Exchanges.

Statement-I

*Circle-wise net achievement of Cellular Mobile Phone connections
during last 3 years*

Sl. No.	Name of circle	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
	MTNL			
1.	Delhi	37672	231589	534468
2.	Mumbai	30961	259557	524991
	BSNL			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	4004	3245	21404
2.	Andhra Pradesh	350771	246790	431832
3.	Assam	26211	125805	225022
4.	Bihar	110603	84660	331282
5.	Chhattisgarh	16579	22817	64100
6.	Gujarat	206422	184836	232256
7.	Haryana	115117	94256	199061
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50351	30175	117334
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	40100	110640	353744
10.	Jharkhand	70725	63134	190828
11.	Karnataka	129991	379166	575525
12.	Kerala	169821	428188	802240
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56297	120322	111689
14.	Maharashtra	334938	242255	281523
15.	North East-1	12160	37996	45814
16.	North East-2	8104	37143	90397
17.	Orissa	93212	129541	267559
18.	Punjab	132611	91258	-13819

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1	2	3	4	5
19.	Rajasthan	136270	150105	727923
20.	Tamil Nadu	240048	503562	561301
21.	Uttaranchal	59007	46393	152116
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	217316	379770	884497
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	193138	112118	252451
24.	West Bengal	95238	114765	403298
25.	Kolkata	7242	222613	182076
26.	Chennai	121553	231687	224951
TOTAL: (BSNL)		2997829	4193240	7716404

Statement-II

Circle-wise achievement of Broadband connections during last 2 years

SI. No.	Name of circle	Achievement during the year	
		2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
	MTNL		
1.	Delhi	3647	97933
2.	Mumbai	907	106648
	BSNL		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	204
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4337	45772
3.	Assam	12	3915
4.	Bihar	82	12948
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	5764

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	900	41304
7.	Haryana	0	12487
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2179
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	4035
10.	Jharkhand	0	5422
11.	Karnataka	10299	80086
12.	Kerala	311	24975
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	26017
14.	Maharashtra	2268	47709
15.	North East-1	0	1022
16.	North East-2	0	360
17.	Orissa	16	3787
18.	Punjab	0	24535
19.	Rajasthan	2	20082
20.	Tamil Nadu	462	20323
21.	Uttaranchal	0	2700
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	0	19355
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	0	11084
24.	West Bengal	24	2647
25.	Kolkata	5043	71231
26.	Chennai	10130	62542
TOTAL:		33889	552485

NOTE: The Broad Band services were started by BSNL and MTNL from January, 2005.

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Statement-III

Circle-wise achievement of internet connections during last 3 years

Sl. No	Name of circle	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
NITNL				
1.	Delhi	156982	106337	73095
2.	Mumbai	165165	31664	110869
BSNL				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	463	636	-258
2.	Andhra Pradesh	61135	53962	32442
3	Assam	3202	3636	3143
4	Bihar	4553	3091	108
5.	Chhattisgarh	6148	7608	5623
6.	Gujarat	44339	42216	40610
7.	Haryana	13609	26930	16549
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4551	4396	7035
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4117	9214	13382
10.	Jharkhand	5898	6491	8501
11	Karnataka	21359	11277	194095
12.	Kerala	67342	94133	68187
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12812	26058	12749
14.	Maharashtra	33240	31653	117546
15.	North East-1	1285	1751	4590
16.	North East-2	1345	5060	4746
17.	Orissa	6989	13160	17581
18	Punjab	33831	38181	38460
19	Rajasthan	14833	47209	18545

1	2	3_	4	5
20.	Tamil Nadu	40971	41766	28802
21.	Uttaranchal	3946	7072	14073
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	21095	25993	17577
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	18436	16444	15251
24.	West Bengal	7509	12559	2822
25.	Kolkata	14	192469	81234
26.	Chennai	67268	62393	39308
TOTAL:		500290	785358	802701

Statement-IV*Circle-wise net achievement of WLL phones during last 3 years*

No.	Name of circle	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
MTNL				
1.	Delhi	41637	69850	(-)66233*
2.	Mumbai	8650	19895	(-)24549*
BSNL				
1	Andaman & Nicobar	383	524	443
2.	Andhra Pradesh	44819	23697	46577
3.	Assam	5765	13408	17993
4.	Bihar	9957	9810	31927
5.	Chhattisgarh	16261	24319	9366
6.	Gujarat	2787	43379	47028
7.	Haryana	16411	47145	12442

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1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-606	3599	27034
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3872	7389	21804
10.	Jharkhand	10648	3698	6171
11.	Karnataka	31266	32506	54410
12.	Kerala	37010	51780	155875
13.	Madhya Pradesh	52022	50065	84584
14.	Maharashtra	47998	103890	63127
15.	North East-1	4621	3399	2832
16.	North East-2	6806	5289	3863
17.	Orissa	12457	19645	24910
18.	Punjab	3283	75447	12204
19.	Rajasthan	43138	62512	106508
20.	Tamil Nadu	14515	40131	95407
21.	Uttaranchal	7974	6834	13196
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	15546	12593	54566
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	15949	11964	16007
24.	West Bengal	7678	26643	28401
25.	Kolkata	18932	-937	867
26.	Chennai	13381	-9410	6872
TOTAL:		442873	669319	944414

* The CDMAWLL network in Delhi & Mumbai has been upgraded by installing CDMA 2000 1X network which has additional features, it is expected that demand in 2006-07 will increase with this.