

Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has also reached to rural areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Out of 26613 villages in telecom circle of Andhra Pradesh (which includes the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), BSNL has covered 13,125 villages by wireline broadband and 20,962 villages by wireless internet through GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) network.

**BSNL connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1653. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has achieved last mile connectivity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The telecom services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reached to far off places including rural areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Out of 26613 villages in telecom circle of Andhra Pradesh (which includes the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), BSNL has provided Village Public Telephones in 25107 villages, mobile coverage in 20962 villages and wireline broadband in 13125 villages.

**Dismal service of BSNL in Himachal Pradesh**

†1654. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has only 1.75 lakh landline customers in Himachal Pradesh at present, whereas it had the largest customer base of seven lakh till 2005;

(b) if so, the concrete measures being taken by Government to sustain the operations of BSNL efficiently, as it is on the verge of closing down in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as compared to BSNL, private operators are providing better services and the services of BSNL are deteriorating day-by-day?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has, at present, 1.65 lakh Landline connections as against 4.81 lakh landline

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.