

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2860  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2015  
THEFT AND DAMAGE TO TELEPHONE CABLES**

**†2860. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:**

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:**

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

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has taken steps to prevent theft of telephone cables and damage to the underground cables;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the cases reported for theft and damage of underground cables during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the action taken against those involved and found doing so;
- (d) whether the telephones remain out of order for long due to damage to the underground cables; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have taken the following steps to prevent theft of telephone cables and damage to the underground cables:

- Patrolling is being done along the cable route during night to minimize the cable theft.
- Close co-ordination is being maintained with other civic agencies and proper monitoring of digging by other agencies.
- Cable theft alarms are provided in some areas
- Regular meetings of BSNL and MTNL officials with police authorities are being held.
- Police complaints are lodged immediately for investigation and preventive action.

Circle-wise details of number of cases of theft and damage of underground cables reported during the last three years and the current year by BSNL and MTNL are given in **Annexure**.

(c) First Information Reports (FIRs) are being lodged by BSNL and MTNL as and when the cable theft incidence comes into notice.

(d) & (e) Immediate action is initiated for the restoration of services and sincere efforts are made by BSNL and MTNL to rectify the cable fault at the earliest. BSNL has also reported that Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/Fixed Wireless Terminal (FWT) is offered in case telephone remains out of order for long period due to damage to the underground cable.

**Contd.....2/-**

**Annexure**

Circle-wise details of number of cases of theft and damage of underground cables reported during the last three years and the current year by BSNL and MTNL

Sr. No	Name of the Circle	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	0	0	0	29
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	44	30	89	72
3	ASSAM	153	146	171	106
4	BIHAR	885	824	626	254
5	CHHATTISGARH	204	334	359	105
6	GUJARAT	4686	4355	6066	3705
7	HARYANA	251	356	362	370
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1134	813	801	521
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	38	19	76	43
10	JHARKHAND	27	22	20	0
11	KARNATAKA	2759	2666	1941	59
12	KERALA	279	702	213	445
13	MADHYA PRADESH	66	29	20	39
	MAHARASHTRA	254	289	216	246
15	NORTH-EAST-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	43	21	9	91
16	NORTH-EAST-II (Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh)	64	55	43	207
17	ORISSA	42	32	26	28
18	PUNJAB	212	101	382	514
19	RAJASTHAN	514	729	559	587
20	TAMIL NADU	30218	33004	29299	32145
21	UTTRANCHAL	21	28	37	61
22	UTTAR PRADESH -E	0	0	0	0
23	UTTAR PRADESH -W	0	77	0	0
24	WEST BENGAL	8	6	1	0
25	KOLKATA Tephones	550	558	533	215
26	CHENNAI Telecom Dist.	13713	14184	15617	10679
<b>MTNL</b>					
1.	Delhi	10631	8785	8022	5711
2.	Mumbai	10570	10628	12527	7105

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