

De-Licensing of Bluetooth wireless technology

2346. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently de-licensed the Bluetooth wireless technology in 2.4 GHz band for indoor use; and

(b) whether Government would permit use of this technology for outdoor users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) This is being examined.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under a licence.

Sale of Personal Computers

2347. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of Personal Computers has shown a considerable downward trend in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the negative growth thereof and the actual number of units sold and Value thereof;

(c) the reasons for downward trend; and

(d) whether Government expect the trend to reverse during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) As per IMRB (Indian Market Research Bureau) — MAIT Study, the sale of Personal computers was 16.7 lakh units during 2001-02, registering a decline of 11% over the previous year. Value of Personal computers sold during 2001-02 was Rs. 4,846 crores. The reason for downward trend was that the market witnessed significant slow-down

[12 August, 2002]

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in Information Technology consumption in general and particularly in the manufacturing, banking & finance and media & professional services sectors. As per the study, the trend is expected to reverse with projected Personal Computers sales of 19 lakh units in 2002-03.

Extravagancy in BSNL

2348. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bharat Sanchar Nigam main karodon ki phizulkharchi" which appeared in the "Punjab Kesari" dated the 4th July, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what corrective steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article regarding corrupt practices between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The renting of accommodation has been carried out due to extreme shortage of space in Sanchar Bhawan and the need to vacate Dak Bhawan. The process has been carried out through open tendering in a transparent manner and therefore, the question of taking corrective steps does not arise.

Mobile connections through BSNL in Kerala

2349. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to provide mobile connections through BSNL in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and