

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details regarding net profit for the current financial year will be available only after preparation of accounts for the financial year ended 31.3.2008. However, for the financial year 2006-07, MTNL reported increase in Net profit by 17.48%.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) and (e) Market share of MTNL in GSM has grown from 4.56% as on 31.3.03 to 16.47% as on 29.2.08. However, overall there is decline in market share because of surrender of landline connections in view of trend towards mobile connections. MTNL is facing the competition very boldly. MTNL has taken lot of measures to maintain its customer base as well as to improve its share in telephone services as detailed in the Statement (*See below*).

(f) and (g) In MTNL, 44 plots are lying vacant/partially vacant. These plots are being used or Telephone Exchange/BTS in temporary structure. MTNL has planned to construct permanent buildings for telephone exchange/staff quarters etc. on these plots in a phased manner.

Statement

Measures taken by MTNL to maintain its customer base as well as improve its share in telephone services

1. During 2007-08, MTNL has commissioned 750K GSM lines in Delhi. 115 new BTS have been added alongwith the above additional capacity.
2. MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both PSTN & Mobile subscribers like news, songs, astrology, e-ticketing, SMS, Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, IPTV etc. in line with the emerging trends.
3. New tariff plans both in landline and cellular based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
4. MTNL is also taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, customer service centre, appointment of Dealers & Agent & special care of Corporate Customers.
5. MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
6. MTNL has recently launched VOIP Services to provide ISD calls at lower tariffs.
7. MTNL has introduced Broadband Services w.e.f. 14.01.05 which has been a great success in the country. Nearly 6 lacs broadband connections are working as on 31.3.08. Broadband network is being further expanded by 1.63 lacs in Delhi in 20.08.09. Out of which 30K has already been commissioned in 2007-08. In Mumbai 2 lacs Broadband lines are planned to be added. Out of which, 32K lines have already been added and the remaining 1.68 lacs lines shall be added in 2008-09.

Telecom services in rural areas

2660. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether Government propose to give more attention to extend the telecom services intensively in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent for this purpose during the current financial year 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08;

(d) whether many private telecom companies have come forward to make investments in rural areas in the field of Telecom Sector particularly the Mobile Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to give more attention to telecom services in rural areas, Government has undertaken the following schemes:—

- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 uncovered villages under Bharat Nirman through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Out of these, 53,073 VPTs have been provided so far.
- (ii) Scheme for setting up of 7871 Sharable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from USOF (Phase-I) has been launched in June, 2007.
- (iii) Second Phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,049 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas of the country is likely to be launched shortly.
- (iv) For creation of general infrastructure for development of telephone facilities, Government has proposed to improve the OFC network between the Block Headquarters and District Headquarters.
- (v) Subsidy support through USOF for Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs).
- (c) An amount of Rs. 2000 crore is likely to be spent for this purpose during the current financial year 2008-09 as compared to Rs. 1290 crore spent during the financial year 2007-08.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details of private sector companies, which have come forward for making investment in rural and remote areas in the field of telecom sector particularly in mobiles sector under USO Fund scheme of shared infrastructure, are given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of private companies for making investment in rural and remote areas in telecom sector under USO Fund scheme

Successful companies for setting up of the infrastructure (infrastructure providers)

| Sl. No. | Name of company | Public/Private sector |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited | Public |
| 2 | GTL Infrastructure Limited | Private |
| 3 | Hutchison Essar Cellular Limited | Private |
| 4 | Hutchison Essar South Limited | Private |
| 5 | National Information Technologies Limited | Private |
| 6 | Quipo Telecom Infrastructure Limited | Private |
| 7 | Reliance Communications Infrastructure Limited | Private |

Successful Companies for provision of Mobile Services (Universal Service Providers)

| Sl. No. | Name of Company | Group Company | Public/Private sector |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Bharti Airtel Limited | Bharti | Private |
| 2 | Bharti Hexacom Limited | Bharti | Private |
| 3 | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited | BSNL | Public |
| 4 | Aircel Limited | Dishnet | Private |
| 5 | Dishnet Wireless Limited | Dishnet | Private |
| 6 | Aircel Digilink India Limited | Vodafone | Private |
| 7 | Fascel Limited | Vodafone | Private |
| 8 | Hutchison Essar Cellular Limited | Vodafone | Private |
| 9 | Hutchison Essar South Limited | Vodafone | Private |
| 10 | BTA Cellcom Limited | Idea | Private |
| 11 | Idea Cellular Limited | Idea | Private |
| 12 | Idea Mobile Communications Limited | Idea | Private |
| 13 | Reliance Communications Limited | Reliance | Private |
| 14 | Reliance Telecom Limited | Reliance | Private |

Withdrawal of landline connections

†2661. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total number of landline phones operational in country during last five years as on 31st March, year-wise;

(b) the details of number of subscribers who have withdrawn landline connection during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for withdrawal of landline connections by the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) Sir, the details of total number of landline phones in the country during the last five years is given below:

(figures in lakhs)

| Number of landline connections as on | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 31.03.2004 | 31.03.2005 | 31.03.2006 | 31.03.2007 | 31.03.2008 |
| 409.2 | 414.2 | 402.3 | 407.7 | 391.8 |

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.