

subscribers were duly informed. Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network elements of Delhi have already been augmented and are presently under observation.

(c) The following steps taken to provide quality services to mobile subscribers are as under:

- (i) Commissioning of 750K GSM lines in 2007-08.
- (ii) 146 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) have been added in 2007-08 in Delhi and NCR.
- (iii) 123 BTS in NCR have been upgraded with higher power/capacity BTSs in 2007-08.

Stamp on Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha

2647. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending in the Department for release of Postal stamp to commemorate the centenary celebration of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a doyen of Assamese culture and revolutionary and cultural activist;

(b) whether Government would consider the release of such postal stamps in near future; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to place the proposal before the Philatelic Advisory Committee which will take the decision.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Services of BSNL in Assam

2648. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL network failure is a regular phenomenon in Assam;

(b) if so, the steps BSNL authority has taken to solve such problem and what are the main hurdle to reduce those problems;

(c) whether BSNL authority in Assam is considering for power generation at their own initiative, in any manner for better service of the BSNL to the consumer; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Sir, BSNL network is, in general, working satisfactorily in Assam. However, some times intermittent failure is occurring mainly due to:

- (i) Multiple Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) cuts during road widening by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and other road construction agencies.

- (ii) OFC cuts by saboteurs.
 - (iii) Prolonged failure of power supply, and
 - (iv) Submerging of telecom systems in flood prone areas of Assam.
- (b) 1. BSNL has taken following salient steps to solve these problems:
- (i) Use of alternate transmission media by laying optical fiber cable in different routes and use of SDH Ring technology.
 - (ii) Providing media through microwave systems.
 - (iii) Hiring of bandwidth and optical fiber from M/s Power Grid Corporation of India and M/s Oil India Ltd. respectively in the area, and
 - (iv) Use of engine alternators to mitigate the problem of prolonged power cuts.
2. The main hurdles faced by BSNL in reducing problems mentioned in para (a) are:
- (i) Presence of a very large optical fiber network throughout the length and breadth of Assam makes the job of patrolling along the routes very tough.
 - (ii) Continued targeting of BSNL optical fiber network by subversive elements.
 - (iii) Insurgency and difficult terrain delays the repair of OFC faults.
- (c) and (d) Sir, in an endeavor to provide interruption free service to the subscribers, enging alternators have been provided in all telephone exchanges for back up of power supply.

National Do-Not-Call Registry

2649. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has announced stiff penalties on telecom service providers and telemarkeeters if unsolicited calls and SMSs are made to mobile subscribers registered with the national do-not-call registry;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government/TRAI has since penalised telecom service providers and telemarkeeters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued 'The Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007' in June 2007 to curb the nuisance of unwanted calls. In order to increase the effectiveness of compliance of these Regulations, the following amendments have been made:

- (i) to discourage the registered telemarkeeters from sending Unsolicited Commercial Communications, the Telecom Tariff Order (47th Amendment) has been issued which has the following provisions:—