

(d) if so, the fresh initiatives taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No such correspondence has been received by the Government from the mobile companies.

(d) Does not arise in view (c) above.

Management of spectrum

2658. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the help of World Bank will computerize the management of spectrum;

(b) if so, complete details in this regard with the financial assistance being provided by World Bank; and

(c) to what extent the management of spectrum through National Radio Spectrum Management would help the telecom operators, defence forces and broadcasters?

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

(a) and (b) The project "National Radio Spectrum Management & Monitoring System (NRSMMMS)", for automation of process for RF Spectrum Management as well as upgradation of the radio monitoring facilities, has been implemented through a World Bank loan of about US \$ 30 million.

(c) The automation of RF spectrum management has resulted in more effective and efficient spectrum management. Various types of applications are now being received online and processed through Automated Spectrum Management System (ASMS). This would help all wireless users.

Decline in net profit of MTNL

2659. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL reported a 53 percent year-on-year decline in its net profit in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has assessed reasons for same;

(d) whether MTNL has continued to lose market share to more aggressive rivals such as Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Reliance Communications Ltd. in market of Mumbai and Delhi;

(e) if so, corrective steps taken by Government in this regard;

(f) whether MTNL has acres of land lying vacant in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(g) if so, the manner in which Government is going to utilize these vacant lands?

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 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;