

MTNL Mumbai has entered into an agreement with TATA AIG to offer one year life insurance scheme to its customers on experimental basis. Personal accident insurance coverage amount is Rs.50,000/- with the validity for a period of one year from the date of allotment of Group Policy Account (GPA) number on consent basis. Scheme is applicable to individuals post paid (both existing and new) subscribers of GSM, CDMA and landline customers, within age group of 18-65 years. No such scheme has been introduced by MTNL in Delhi.

Telephone Services in rural areas

†2656. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all private basic telecom operators have failed to fulfil their commitments regarding providing telephone services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to make the provisions of agreements regarding IT and communications more stringent; 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) All the Basic Private Service Operators (BPSOs), who had roll-out obligation for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on the basis of old licenses, have migrated to Unified Access Service License (UASL) in November, 2003. According to the guidelines of UASL, there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas by the licensees. However, all telecom service providers except value added service providers like Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Voice Mail and E-Mail etc. are contributing Universal Service Levy (USL) @ 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for meeting Universal Service Obligation. The requirement of access in rural areas is now met from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(c) No, Sir.

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

No Call Registry

2657. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether Supreme Court has given any directions to the TRAI regarding undesired calls to consumers despite being registered under "No Call Registry";

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether mobile companies have expressed their unwillingness to implement the directives of TRAI to control undesired calls; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(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?