

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):
(a) Out of 121 Letters of Intent (LoIs) issued in January, 2008, 120 Unified Access Services (UAS) licence agreements have been signed with 16 private companies. M/s Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has not submitted compliance of LoI for Punjab Service Area and therefore the LoI has been cancelled.

In addition, 5 LoIs were also issued to M/s ByCell Telecommunication India Pvt. Ltd. in February, 2008. The UAS licence agreements with M/s ByCell Telecommunication India Pvt. Ltd. have not been signed till date.

(b) As per terms and conditions of the UAS licence agreement, the licensee has to commission the applicable systems within one year from the effective date of licence.

Guidelines for optimal usage of spectrum

3254. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to frame guidelines for optimal usage of spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government for increasing rural tele-density through this effort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):
(a) and (b) In order to ensure optimum use and equitable allotment of scarce spectrum resource, the criteria for spectrum allotment are based on the active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network and demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments. The latest orders in this regard are based on TRAI recommendations and have been issued in January, 2008.

(c) The spectrum is allotted for the complete service area and thus, does not constrain the operators from rolling out the service in any part of the service area, including rural areas. To increase connectivity in rural and remote areas, a scheme has been implemented under the 'Universal Service Obligation Fund' to provide subsidy for shared passive infrastructure (towers, etc.) in certain specified rural and remote areas.

Non-functioning of roaming facilities of MTNL

3255. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL cellular phones were unable to roam in BSNL network for a full three days from 21st to 24th March, 2008; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure that such contingencies do not arise in future?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Mobile lines capacity of BSNL

3256. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that BSNL is facing rapidly shrinking market share in the fast expanding mobile market;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is an urgent need to augment the mobile lines capacity of BSNL to check call rates of other mobile service providers; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Decline in market share of BSNL in wireless segment is due to increase of number of private players and fierce competition among different service providers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to add 33.5 million lines capacity in next one year.

Change in postal infrastructure

3257. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department's revenue deficit for the fiscal 2006-07 was about Rs. 1250 crores and the projected revenue deficit for the current fiscal to be around Rs. 1288 crores;

(b) whether in view of the rapid technological advancements in telecom and cyber related transmission system, the existing postal infrastructure have become redundant and unremunerative;

(c) whether the Department of Posts has tied up with herbal/indigenous drug companies to sell their products through Post Offices as also over-the-counter drugs of major pharma companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Sir, the revenue deficit of the department for the year 2006-07 was Rs. 1249.52 crores and the projected revenue deficit of the Department for the year 2008-09 is Rs. 1135.74 crores.