

- (v) Bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit has been reintroduced.
- (vi) The benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits Accounts and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 01.04.2007.

Local calls from Delhi

1106. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that calls made from Delhi to NCR towns and *vice versa* are still not treated as local calls and do not materialize without a STD code particularly to places like Palwal, Sonapat, Meerut, Alwar, Gurgaon etc.;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the city code does not enable many land line and mobile phones to access these cities due to poor technology or other reasons;
- (d) whether this defeats the concept of NCR; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to address the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The calls made from MTNL Delhi network to NCR towns and *vice-versa* are materialized by dialing 95 followed by city code and subscriber number as these places are not part Delhi short Distance Charging Area (SDCA). This facility is available to all subscribers irrespective of whether they are having STD facility or not.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Slow growth of BSNL

1107. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government has expressed concern over the slow growth of BSNL;
- (b) if so, whether the factors have been identified for slow growth of BSNL;
- (c) if so, whether the important decision taken by the Department of Telecom are not implemented by BSNL timely;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether any mechanism would be worked out to ensure that the decisions of the Department of Telecommunications are implemented by BSNL without any loss of time; and

(f) 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. Government has expressed concern over the decline in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of BSNL. The decline in AGR has been due to delay in roll out of BSNL's Mobile Network.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Health hazards by mobile tower

1108. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether installation of mobile base station (mobile tower) and its functioning causes any health hazards to the people residing nearby;

(b) whether some guidelines pertaining to installation of Base Station by mobile service providers with a view to avoid any potential risk to structural safety and to health and safety of public at large have been framed; and

(c) whether Government intends to put ban on the installation of mobile station at the top of the house and allow them to install these towers in an open space so as to remove any risk to health and safety from the minds of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The latest fact sheet No. 304 of May, 2006, of World Health Organisation (WHO) states that from all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long-term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF signals produced by the base stations. Further, a committee was setup under the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), as per the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, to study the effects of radiations from mobile phone towers and related aspects. The Committee has studied the effects and concluded that 'overall there is not enough evidence to show direct health hazards of RF exposures from mobile base stations'.

(b) and (c) For installation of base Stations by mobile service providers with a view to avoid any potential risk to structural safety, they have to follow the applicable byelaws, rules and regulations of Local Bodies such Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc.

Software station in Bangalore

1109. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: