

at Bharuch. It was recovered from a scrap dealer's shop by Police after two days.

4. In January 1999 an Ir-192 source of 165 GBq activity was stolen from storage room at site. It was recovered by Police after two days.
5. In January 1999 an Ir-192 source of 1.295 TBq was stolen from storage at Haldia. It was recovered after ten days after extensive search.

Nucleonic Gauge

6. In October 1998, 1.85 GBq Am-241-Be neutron source of a moisture depth gauge was stolen from field laboratory and not recovered.

Mobile Phone Subscribers

445. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mobile Phone Subscribers as on the September, 2001 and their number in the five metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata;

(b) the number of cellular operators and their names in the above cities; and

(c) the growth rate of subscribers base in the first six months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, number of Cellular Mobile Phone Subscribers are as under:—

- (i) Total number of Mobile Phone Subscribers in the country as on 30th September, 2001 is 48,07,700.
- (ii) Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are given for Metro Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas. The Cellular Subscribers belong to a complete Service Area and not to a particular city in that Service Area. Bangalore city forms part of Karnataka Telecom Circle Service Area, therefore, the number of subscribers in Karnataka Telecom Circle is given. The subscriber base for Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Metro Service Areas and Karnataka Telecom Circle (which includes Bangalore) Service Area are as given below:

Sl.No.	Service Area	No. of Subscribers as on 30.09.2001
1.	Delhi	7,62,216
2.	Mumbai	7,10,418
3.	Chennai	1,98,905
4.	Kolkata	2,04,242
5.	Karnataka Telecom Circle (including Bangalore)	2,95,263

(b) Number and Names of the Cellular Operators are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Growth rate of total subscriber base in the first six months of this financial year are as follows:

Sl.No.	Month/Year	Total Number of Subscribers at the end of the month	Increase from the previous month
1.	April, 2001	36,84,413	1,07,318
2.	May, 2001	38,71,514	1,87,101
3.	June, 2001	40,77,962	2,06,488
4.	July, 2001	42,88,987	2,11,025
5.	August, 2001	45,42,187	2,53,200
6.	September, 2001	48,04,272	2,62,085

Statement

Number and Names of the Cellular Operators

S.No.	Name of Service Area (Metro City/ Telecom Circle)	No. of Operators	Name of Operator
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	4	Bharti Cellular Ltd. Sterling Cellular Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Birla AT&T Communications Limited

1	2	3	4
2.	Mumbai	4	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Limited.
3.	Kolkata	4	Spice Cell Ltd. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Reliable Internet Services Limited.
4.	Chennai	4	RPG Cellular Services Ltd. Skycell Communications (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Barakhamba Sales and Services Ltd.
5.	Karnataka	4	Bharti Mobile Ltd. Spice Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Barakhamba Sales and Services Ltd.

MTNL-broadcasters tie up

446. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL propose to tie up with broadcasters for entering the cable television segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantage of convergence with the Prasar Bharati in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MTNL has a proposal to form an alliance with Prasar Bharati to enter cable TV segment.

(c) Main features/advantages of the proposed alliance are: