

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is a scheme for Sharing of Hospital Income (SHI) in Tata Memorial Centre.

(b) This scheme has the approval of the Government.

(c) Rs. 612 lakh in the year 2008.

Additional nuclear plants

2883. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed for setting up additional nuclear plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the quantum of additional energy planned to be produced by each of them;

(d) the total quantity of electricity generated through Heavy Water Reactors and Light Water Reactors so far, separately;

(e) whether electricity generated through nuclear power plants is cost effective and has benefits over other sources of energy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to augment harnessing of atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Government has accorded inprinciple approval for sites for locating nuclear power plants at Kakrapar (2 × 700 MWe) in Gujarat and Rawatbhata (2 × 700 MWe) in Rajasthan. Similarly inprinciple approval has been accorded for sites at Kudankulam and Jaitapur for setting up Light Water Reactors through imports. More nuclear power plants at additional sites are also planned. However, details are not yet finalized.

(d) Out of the total installed nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe, 320 MWe is based on Light Water Reactors and balance 3800 MWe is based on Heavy Water Reactors.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The tariffs of nuclear power are competitive with that of coal fired thermal power stations at locations away from coal mines. In addition nuclear power is clean and environment friendly, as it has no Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

The current installed capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe progressively by the year 2011 by completion of projects under construction. More reactors, both of indigenous designs and based on international co-operation are planned to increase the nuclear power capacity.

Basic and mobile telephone services

2884. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of public and private sector companies providing basic and mobile telephone services in the country;

(b) whether the share of public sector companies is declining in comparison to private sector company market share;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by Government to face the competition from the private companies and to store market share; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As on 31.05.2009, share of public and private sector companies providing basic and mobile telephone services in the country is 20.03 per cent and 79.97 per cent respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The decline in the share of public sector companies is due to the increasing competition and greater participation of the private telecom service providers. However, the subscriber base of public sector companies is steadily increasing. The subscriber base of public sector companies which was 52.09 million in March 2005, now stands at 90.70 million, as on 31st May 2009.

(d) and (e) The public sector companies are taking lot of measures to face the competition from the private companies and improve its market share by way of expansion of network, improvement in services, customer care, provision of Value Added Services, revision of tariffs etc. such as:—

1. During 2009-10, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide 18 million cellular mobile connections.
2. BSNL has planned to deploy newer technologies like Fixed Mobile Convergence (FMC) and Next Generation Network (NGN) etc.
3. BSNL is reducing tariff for basic services and empowering Chief General Managers of Telecom Circles to launch Circle based competitive tariffs for basic and Cellular Services to face competition effectively.
4. Deployment of Wireless technologies by BSNL to enhance service Coverage to far flung rural areas.
5. The Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in Delhi and Mumbai has been expanded by 750,000 lines alongwith 111 Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTSs) in Delhi and 57 BTSs in Mumbai during the year 2008-09. The GSM network capacity of 500,000 lines is under installation each at Delhi and Mumbai.
6. Additional 200 GSM towers in Delhi and 291 GSM towers in Mumbai are proposed to be installed during 2009-10 by MTNL to provide better coverage.
7. MTNL has already launched 3G GSM services in Delhi and Mumbai (soft launch) for which a capacity of 250,000 (3G) has been installed each at Delhi and Mumbai.

8. MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both land line and mobile subscribers like news, songs, e-ticketing, Short Message Service (SMS), Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc. in line with the emerging trends.
9. 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.
10. MTNL has launched Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services to provide international calls at lower tariffs.

Mergers and acquisitions by telecom companies

2885. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the guidelines, mergers and acquisitions by telecom companies, intra city mergers are not allowed till the licensee completes three year from the date of issue of licence;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any application for the merger from any of the licensees and has Government approved any mergers for the companies which do not meet the guidelines prescribed by TRAI; and

(c) the reasons therefor and penal action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As per the Guidelines dated 22.04.2008 for intra service area Merger of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences, any permission for merger shall be accorded only after completion of 3 years from the effective date of the licences.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has not approved any mergers of companies which do not meet the guidelines.

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

MTNL/BSNL services

2886. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the various services provided by MTNL and BSNL are not upto the mark as compared to those rendered by private companies;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether due to unsatisfactory services by MTNL/BSNL a large number of customers have withdrawn their connections; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?