

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(c) whether due to unsatisfactory services by MTNL/BSNL a large number of customers have withdrawn their connections; and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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, various services provided by MTNL and BSNL are generally satisfactory as compared to those rendered by private companies. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile service of MTNL and BSNL are working satisfactorily and are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The service is comparable with that being provided by other operators. Broadband services of MTNL and BSNL are also meeting the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI except, marginally, in a few circles of BSNL on some parameters. However, MTNL and BSNL are continuously optimizing their network for better performance.

(c) and (d) In the present day multi operator telecom industry, subscribers have their own reasons for withdrawing/staying with their connections. Some of the customers have withdrawn their landline connections due to migration from landline to mobile telephone. Landline services are, sometimes, adversely affected due to constraints beyond control of MTNL and BSNL like prolonged breakdown due to various reasons such as road widening, cable thefts, cable faults, etc. However, there is positive growth in WLL and GSM mobile connections and MTNL and BSNL total customer base are increasing every year. MTNL and BSNL are taking lot of measures to improve their market share and Quality of Service by way of expansion of network, Customer Care, provision of Value Added Services, revision of tariff etc.

Availability of 3G spectrum

2887. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is disparity between availability of 3G spectrum across different circles;

(b) if so, how does Government propose to address this issue;

(c) in what manner operators are planned to be awarded 3G spectrum in each of the serviced areas;

(d) in what manner Government propose to make available more spectrum in these areas and by when; and

(e) by what time frame all the circles will have 60MHz of 3G spectrum available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MOU has been signed between Department of Telecom and Ministry of Defence (MOD). MOD will release 3G spectrum in a phased manner in a span of 3 Years from signing of