

NLD/STD telephone calls

2899. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2003 some telecom operators had routed its STD calls in roaming locations locally by by-passing National Long Distance (NLD) and this had resulted in crores of rupees losses to BSNL, the only NLD operator at that time;

(b) if so, the names and details of the companies;

(c) the action taken by Government to recover the losses from these companies in conformity with the licencing conditions; and

(d) penalty being imposed on the companies for violating the National Roaming Plan and also the action being taken to ensure that the operators do not engage in unauthorized by-pass of NLD traffic in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in 2003, some of the mobile telecom operators, viz, Spice Telecom, Bharti and Hutch had been found by passing NLD Networks while offering certain services like Subscriber Local Dialing (SLD), Direct Contact Service, Roamers Local Link etc. wherein in-roamers (as they were called) were permitted to be accessed by the local subscribers on a local call basis. However, BSNL has intimated that there was no loss caused to BSNL by these services.

(c) and (d) The cases of violation of License conditions including in the matter of providing local calling services (like SLD etc.) has been examined by a committee in Department of Telecom. The Committee has submitted its report. A decision on Report of the Committee has not yet been taken by the Government.

Call Drop

†2900. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the meaning of a 'Call drop' on a mobile phone and the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of names of the companies and the number of call drops of each during the last 12 months;

(c) the amount of undesired, additional income accrued to mobile service provider company from call drop; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to check this problem and save mobile subscribers from economic losses; and

(e) if not, whether this would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The incident of a call which is correctly established and interrupted prior to its normal completion by the user, is termed as Call drop.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.