

Service Obligation (USO) Fund. An agreement to this effect has already been entered into with BSNL on 27th February, 2009 and 26909 VPTs have already been provided under this agreement, as on 31.05.2009.

#### Lost of connections

1342. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL's revenue dipped around 23 per cent recently and BSNL lost 12 lakh connections during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that MTNL has lost over 44500 and 57500 customers in Delhi and Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the negative growth of BSNL and MTNL landline connection paved way for the benefit of private operators who have been offering better connectivity and service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the revenue in respect of basic service for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been Rs. 14499.14 crores and Rs. 11504.98 crores respectively. Thus there is dip in revenue by 20.65%.

The number of working BSNL landline telephone connections has reduced by 7.27 lakh during the last six months i.e. from 297.03 lakh as on 30.11.2008 to 289.76 lakh as on 31.5.2009.

(c) and (d) The detail of number of lines disconnected/surrendered and provided by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai during last six months (from 01.01.2009 to 30.06.2009) are as follows:—

Type	Delhi		Mumbai		MTNL	
	Disconnected/ surrender	Provided	Disconnected/ surrender	Provided	Disconnected/ surrender	Provided
Landline	49,777	60,982	91,447	96,538	1,41,224	1,57,520
FWP/FWT	1,815	2,068	3,152	6,552	4,967	86,201
Garuda	4,651	10,298	1,556	12,542	6,207	22,840
Dolphin	18,384	9,250	4,680	3,808	23,064	13,058
Trump	32,038	1,80,617	12,570	2,71,354	44,608	4,51,971
TOTAL:	1,06,665	2,63,215	1,13,405	3,90,794	2,20,070	6,54,009

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The main reason for surrender of landline connections is increased usage of mobile phones. Thus, the customers surrendering landline connections are taking mobile phones from BSNL and MTNL as well as other private operators. Total customer base of BSNL and MTNL is also increasing every year.

#### **Permission for IPO**

†1343. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has sought approval for IPO from Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision being taken by Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons:—

- will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- will be useful for improving the image of BSNL.
- will promote growth of BSNL.

#### **Efficiency of Speed Post service**

1344. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Speed Post service has gone down in recent past;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Speed Post service is unable to keep up with the service offered by private operators;
- (c) the reasons for the inability of the post office to render a simple service; and
- (d) the steps that are proposed to improve the record of Speed Post service and other services which the post office offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.