

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(c) whether due to unsatisfactory services by MTNL/BSNL a large number of customers have withdrawn their connections; and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