

seen from the fact that Coal India Limited (the major player with about 85% share in production) had last revised the prices w.e.f. 16.6.2004. While international coal prices had risen significantly in the interim, no increase in the cost of inputs during this period due to inflation etc. has been passed on to the consumers by way of increase in coal prices by the coal companies. The increase in the All India Consumers Price Index (AICPI) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the period between June 2004 to August, 2006 has been of the order of 12% and 11% respectively, as per the Reserve Bank of India bulletin.

Performance of MTNL/BSNL

883. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market is growing at high rates and all private players are showing high growth; and

(b) the reasons for which the performance of MTNL/BSNL have shown a downward trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL and BSNL are not showing downward trend. But instead, they are rather expanding and showing an upward trend in their respective service areas. The growth in subscriber base including fixed and mobile services of MTNL and BSNL is given below:

Total Subscriber Base including Fixed and Mobile Services as on	MTNL	BSNL
31.03.2004	48,34,486	4,16,48,546
31.03.2005	51,53,483	4,69,34,950
31.03.2006	59,24,428	5,51,59,175
30.09.2006	61,31,944	5,76,61,763