

(a) whether it is proposed to connect Pindari Glacier, Namik Glacier ? and Vedni Bugyal— the world famous tourist destinations in Uttarakhand with mobile network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the above regions would be connected to mobile services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at present does not have any plan to provide cellular mobile service at Pindari Glacier, Namik Glacier and Vedni Bugyal due to non-availability of power supply, road and population.

Uniform services by BSNL

†2594. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) provides uniform services throughout the country;

(b) if so, for what reasons B.S.N.L. phones do not catch signals or do not function properly at some places; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by Government to remove such hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based cellular mobile service in all its Licensed Service Areas which comprise to whole of India except Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service Areas.

(b) GSM based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) in the country is working

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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satisfactorily and is in general meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(c) Cellular mobile network of BSNL is being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. BSNL is also augmenting its network for enhancing its coverage and improving Quality of Service.

Tele-density in rural areas of Rajasthan

2595 DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of revenue villages in Rajasthan that are connected with the telecom network;

(b) the steps Government are taking to improve the tele-density of rural areas;

(c) whether there is any time-frame to get all villages connected; and

(d) if so, the targeted period thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31st March, 2007, 33,787 villages in the State of Rajasthan have already been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility.

(b) Following steps have been taken for improving rural tele-density in Rajasthan:—

(i) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) and Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) for provision of individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 203 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Rajasthan out of total 258 SDCAs in the State.

(ii) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using