

Security implications of mobile towers

2735. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various intelligence agencies have warned of the long term security implications of installation of mobile towers along the Indo-Pak border by Pakistan telecom companies;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistan mobile SIM cards are active in various locations in the Indian side which are used for smuggling of drugs and arms;

(c) if so, whether the Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell of the DoT submitted its survey report in this regard to Government; and

(d) if so, the further steps Government proposes to take on the basis of various intelligence reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Sir, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is aware that some spillage of signal across the border has been detected and the matter has been taken up with Ministry of External Affairs for arranging a bilateral meeting with Pakistan authorities on the issue of cross border radio interference.

Loss to BSNL during 2009-10

2736. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has suffered net loss of Rs.1823 crore during 2009-10;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such huge losses by BSNL;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed by Government on such huge losses to BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to arrest the financial decline of the BSNL and to restructure the business of company to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has suffered a net loss of Rs. 1822.65 crore during the financial year 2009-10.

(b) The Loss incurred by BSNL is mainly on account of reduction in revenue and increase in expenditure. The reduction in BSNL revenue is mainly because of decline in revenue from wire-lines due to churning of fixed line subscribers in view of preference to mobile telephony and fall in ARPU (Average Revenue Per User). Though there is a net increase in number of wireless connections yet revenue decreased mainly due to reduction in tariff by BSNL in the competitive market. The main reasons for increase in expenditure are as below:

- (i) The staff expenditure has increased due to implementation of recommendations of Wage Revision Committee. The wage revision has alone caused an additional expenditure of Rs. 2900 crore over the previous year on account of payment of arrears for the period from 01.01.2007 to 31.03.2010.
- (ii) Increase in depreciation is due to amortization of one time spectrum fee for 3G & (Broadband Wireless Access) BWA service.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by BSNL to arrest its financial decline and to restructure the business of company to make it profitable are as follows:

BSNL has undertaken an exercise of organizational restructuring with the help of M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG), a management consulting firm. The focus of this transformational exercise named Project Shikhar has been towards:-

- (i) Revitalizing the businesses by focusing on growth in mobile, broadband and enterprise segments. A separate vertical for new business has also been created.
- (ii) Building capabilities for significant improvements in sales and distribution, product management, pricing, customer service and revenue assurance activities.

As part of this exercise, BSNL's organization structure has also being redesigned along different business verticals to provide end-to-end focus on key growth segments and to clearly define accountability for different businesses and functions at all levels of the organization.