

[3 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The International Long Distance Service Licensees are free to extend Optic Fibre Link to any country including Pakistan subject to necessary clearance. However, no licensee has sought clearance for laying Optic Fibre Link to Pakistan.

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

Loss of revenue due to surrender of phones

312. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of surrendered and disconnected phones of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has crossed 50 lakhs during the last two financial years;

(b) the details thereof and loss of revenue in view of the surrender and disconnection of phones;

(c) the number of consumers who have surrendered their fixed line telephones all over the country since the inception of cellular phone services; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation and safeguard the interest of the employees in both the organizations?

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

(b) The details of surrendered and disconnected phones of BSNL and MTNL during the last two financial years are furnished below:-

Year	BSNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)	In Lakh MTNL (Surrenders/ Disconnections)
2002-03	17.93	4.67
2003-04	32.60	9.76

Surrenders/disconnections happen due to various reasons including surrender of additional landline due to improved services, migration to mobile connections and also quality services from two operators etc. The spare capacity is reutilized for providing new telephone connections. The number of over all working connections (Fixed+WLL+GSM) are increasing. It cannot be said that there has been revenue loss due to these surrenders/ disconnections.

(c) Details landline surrendered are given in the enclosed Statement-I for BSNL and Statement-II for MTNL. (See below)

(d) Various steps taken to improve the situation are as follows:

- (i) Upgradation of technology
- (ii) Improvement in customer care services
- (iii) Offering more customer friendly tariff plans
- (iv) Intensive training to various segments of employees
- (V) Offering more value added services
- (vi) Offering services through call centers
- (vii) Recently Broadband has been deployed which is expected to prevent churn and lead to increase in revenue.

Statement-I

Surrenders/Disconnections of Fixed lines in BSNL

SI. No.	Name of Circles	DELS Surrendered during			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (upto 31.1.05)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1381	1333	1381	1485
2.	Andhra Pradesh	289154	293030	468426	419099
3.	Assam	6112	8791	31085	23633
4.	Bihar	38176	20908	54802	33190
5.	Chhattisgarh	13933	18132	19278	26758

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1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	136512	180517	395534	279996
7.	Haryana	15788	29284	66473	105284
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3184	5850	38306	19039
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2946	7852	10517	9108
10.	Jharkhand	5009	16042	19038	19556
11.	Karnataka	216753	183286	307930	259623
12.	Kerala	43778	53264	92245	100249
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56374	56475	77305	90941
14.	Maharashtra	135930	234109	472548	362693
15.	North East-1	2778	4955	5587	12303
16.	North East-2	14357	7598	3425	10358
17.	Orissa	15536	40239	64924	29837
18.	Punjab	23310	55771	161694	157208
19.	Rajasthan	42681	55465	112673	115357
20.	Tamil Nadu	139981	240359	306407	244723
21.	Uttanchal	9472	11566	29918	74842
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	28261	68844	119552	77017
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	37088	35227	92868	88087
24.	West Bengal	0	11334	39640	38494
25.	Kolkatta	31558	84831	125440	142883
26.	Chennai	33860	68474	143138	123832
TOTOL		1343812	1793536	3260135	2865595

Statement-II

Surrendered of Landline Connections in MTNL

Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2000-01	22016	65293
2001-02	38782	102402
2002-03	66851	104387

Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2003-04	190592	186650
2004-05 (upto 31.1.05)	119035	151424

Creation of a Knowledgeable Commission

313. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create a Knowledgeable Commission to strengthen the roots and sinews of our capacity and capability building so that we are better prepared for the challenges of the 21st century;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose of this Commission would be a catalyst in setting ambitious knowledge targets and enabling agencies to attain these; and

(c) if so, by when the Commission is likely to function and the details of other members of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Prime Minister has announced the intention of the Government to set up a National Knowledge Commission. This is currently under finalization.

(b) Would be detailed when finalized.

(c) Would be detailed when finalized.

Private Companies using their own Cables

†314. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the decision awarded by TRAI in January, 2005, which would adversely affect the amount being received by BSNL and MTNL from ADC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.