

[28 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the main reasons for making declaration of slashing or hiking fixed monthly rent rate are:

- (i) Rural/Urban classification as per Census Report 2001. (ii) Enhancement of exchange system capacity. (iii) Introduction of different Tariff-Plans.

(b) The declaration by General Manager, Noida was with regard to the criteria adopted for fixing rural and urban tariff based on Census Report 2001. However, in individual cases of any wrong charging, detected subsequently, necessary adjustments are done in subsequent bills.

(c) Census Report 2001 is taken as basis for classifications of the subscribers for the purpose of telephone traffic uniformly throughout the Country.

(d) The service area of Delta Exchange in Gautam Budh Nagar is new developing area and is technically non-feasible at present on wired line (on account of non-availability of underground cable pair) as well as on WLL system [on account of shortage of fixed wireless terminals (FWT's)].

Black Marketing of BSNL Sim Cards

†3743. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black marketing of BSNL sim cards is going on in several States and sim cards could not be provided to the subscribers as per their requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to check the black marketing of sim cards and also to provide sim cards to the subscribers as per their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints of black marketing of SIM Cards were received in the past from the State of U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The release of SIM Cards has been temporarily controlled in some States due to capacity constraints.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the BSNL to check black marketing of SIM Cards:—

- (i) SIM Cards are being distributed strictly as per waiting list maintained in States like Bihar, Jharkhand & U.P.
- (ii) Unsold SIM Cards are deactivated after a stipulated period of issue.
- (iii) Strict observance of customer verification before issue of SIM Cards.
- (iv) Surprise inspection of all franchisee outlets/Customer Service Centres (CSCs) by vigilance cell.

Further, BSNL has taken steps to expand its countrywide cellular network by an additional capacity of 14 million lines to take capacity to around 23 million by year-end. Thereafter, SIM Cards are expected to be available on demand.

Promotion of NIXI

3744. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have promoted National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the functions of the exchange;

(c) whether NIXI has started functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made by NIXI to provide improve Internet Services in the country?

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

(b) National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has been set up at 4 locations within the country viz. Chennai, Mumbai, Noida and Kolkata and are collocated with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). Functions of NIXI are:—

— It acts as the meeting point of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India. Its main purpose is to facilitate exchange of domestic Internet traffic between the peering ISPs.

(c) Yes, Sir. NIXI has started functioning.