

#### **Sealing of MTNL towers**

1716. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MTNL towers that have been sealed by the MCD;
- (b) the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures that have been taken by Government to ensure that the sealing does not affect MTNL users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) As on date the total number of MTNL towers sealed by MCD is seven (7).

(b) MCD has so far not intimated any reason for sealing of towers.

(c) As far as MTNL is concerned, MCD authorities are being persuaded for de-sealing of the sealed towers. RF coverage optimization is done to provide coverage to the affected users from adjacent towers.

#### **Unsolicited calls and SMSs**

1717. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to prohibit unsolicited calls and SMSs on the basis of several complaints from consumers;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) by when framing and implementation of regulation on unsolicited calls would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) Regulations of 5th June, 2007 to curb the Unsolicited calls and SMSs. As per the present regulations, those subscribers who do not want to receive Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) may register their telephone number with the National Do Not Call Registry and no telemarketer shall send any UCC to subscribers registered in the National Do Not Call Registry. Violation of the regulations attracts higher tariff charges of Rs. 500/- for first instance and Rs. 1000/- for second instance followed by disconnection of telecom resources.

To further strengthen the current framework, TRAI is currently reviewing the framework for controlling UCC. TRAI initiated the process of Consultation to review UCC regulations and issued Consultation Paper on "Review of Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications

Regulations” on 11th May, 2010 soliciting comments of various stakeholders. Open House Discussions were held besides meetings with some Telemarketers, Service Providers and Service Providers Associations. TRAI is currently examining various measures to control UCC, provide options to subscribers and to strengthen the framework. As per TRAI, the new regulations are likely to be issued shortly.

#### **Recommendations of Pitroda panel to revive BSNL**

1718. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has incurred losses for the year to end in March, a first in the company's history;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has set up a Pitroda panel to revive BSNL;
- (d) if so, the recommendations given by the panel; and
- (e) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per audited books of account, BSNL has earned profit since its inception in October, 2000 (*i.e.* 2000-01) up to the financial year 2008-09. However, it has incurred a loss of Rs. 1822.65 crores for the first time in its history in the financial year 2009-10.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The important recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee are as under.

- Focus on selection of the best professionals from the market at market rates.
- Appoint an eminent person from the private sector as the Chairman.
- Separate the post of the Managing Director/CEO (from CMD).
- Change the Board composition to seven directors [one internal (MD/CEO), one non executive chairman, two Government nominee and three external directors].
- Provide three year contracts with specific targets for all key management team members.
- Establish four independent business units for Fixed access, Mobility, Enterprise and New businesses.
- Complete ITS absorption process.