

Free SIMs for BSNL and MTNL landline subscribers

†*80. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are providing free SIMs to landline subscribers of the country, especially in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of each State, especially from Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched special scheme named PYARI JODI on pan India basis (except Delhi and Mumbai service areas) for all BSNL landline customers. This scheme, which was initially launched for 90 days *w.e.f.* 5.11.2010, has now been made a regular plan *w.e.f.* 3.2.2011.

Under the scheme, there is unlimited free call facility to one BSNL landline or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) number from mobile and Subscriber Identity Module (SIM)/Activation is free through BSNL Customer Service Centre.

The response in Maharashtra State is very good and BSNL has 2,78,592 working connections under PYARI JODI scheme as on 15.02.2011. The response received from other States, upto December, 2010, is given as under:-

State	Number of connections under PYARI JODI
1	2
Madhya Pradesh	58,484
Chhattisgarh	12,452
Gujarat	44,134
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	271
Bihar	6,842
Jharkhand	3,320
Kolkata	2,462
North East I & II	37
Orissa	23,665

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2
West Bengal	35,213
UP (East)	64,365
UP (West)	28,536
Punjab	1,09,510
Rajasthan	1,13,107
Himachal Pradesh	15,409
Haryana	31,917
J&K	4,589

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) launched the scheme of providing free SIMs to existing MTNL Delhi Landline and Broadband Customers, on promotional basis, *w.e.f.* 01.11.2010 to 29.01.2011. This scheme has later been made a regular plan. However, no such scheme is available for the customers of MTNL, Mumbai.

Under the scheme, SIM/Activation charge is free through Sanchar Haats for postpaid customers and SIM and First Recharge Coupon are free for prepaid customers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Post-harvest losses

†466. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the post-harvest losses of yield have been estimated to be very high in the country;
- (b) if so, the estimates of average annual losses in terms of quantity;
- (c) whether there is any estimation of decrease in these losses between the years 2000-2001 and 2009-2010; and
- (d) if so, the quantum of estimated decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the report on "Estimation of Quantitative Harvest and Post Harvest Losses of major agricultural produce in India" conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during 2005-07, the harvest and

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