

Mobile services of BSNL in rural areas

†3930. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile services of BSNL have not been completely successful in rural areas; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to make the mobile services of BSNL useful in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Some complaints are received by BSNL from its subscribers including from rural areas regarding the Quality of Service (QoS) of Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) based mobile services. However, the mobile telecom services of BSNL are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) including in rural areas. There are few uncovered spots in rural areas as BSNL rolls out its mobile services as per its techno-commercial considerations. BSNL augments its mobile network to enhance coverage and capacity including in rural areas.

FDI in food processing sector

3931. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase FDI in food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total inflow of FDI in this sector during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect this sector and to promote efficiency therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has already taken steps to encourage FDI and one of the significant measures was declaring the Food Processing Sector under 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.