DoT, on 3rd November, 2011, ordered that Group 'A' officers working on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL who had not opted for BSNL/MTNL by 8th November, 2011 and in whose cases the courts, as per records with DoT, have not granted interim stay or given interim directions, would be reverted to Government from 9th November, 2011 onwards. Till 21st August, 2012, a total of 434 Group 'A' officers have been relieved by BSNL/MTNL for reporting to DoT. Of the aforesaid officers, 49 officers have either been assigned duties/responsibilities in the DoT or have joined various Central Ministries/Departments/Organizations/State Governments on deputation.

To implement provisions of Rule 37-A (6) of the rules ibid, DoT, on 27.12.2011 constituted Surplus Cell Establishments (SSEs) for referring the names of Group 'A' officers of ITS and IP&T AFS who have opted for Government service and are identified to be in excess of the requirement of this Department to the Surplus Cell of the Government for their redeployment. However, the constitution of SSE for ITS officers has been stayed by Central Administrative Tribunal, Jaipur Bench and Hyderabad Bench. Necessary action is being taken by the DoT to defend these cases and to get the stay vacated. A Transfer Petition has also been filed in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench for transfer and clubbing of the cases at Jaipur and Hyderabad Benches for adjudication and decision by the Principal Bench.

An order dated 17th April, 2012 was passed by the High Court of Delhi in a writ petition filed by Indian Telecom Service Association and other connected writ petitions in which the High Court, *inter-alia,* allowed the petitioners to exercise a fresh option within two weeks from the date of this order to revert to the Government or to seek permanent absorption in BSNL/MTNL, as the case may be. The High Court also directed that BSNL/MTNL shall relieve such of the petitioners, who opt to revert to Government service within 2 weeks of receipt of options from them. BSNL & MTNL filed petitions before the High Court of Delhi for extension of date of relieving unabsorbed Group 'A' officers back to DoT. The High Court by its order dated 18th May, 2012 extended the date for relieving these officers by BSNL/MTNL till 30th September, 2012.

Software engineers without work due to slowdown of projects

1470. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the $ 100 billion domestic IT industry is battling a slowdown of projects from abroad and has forced many software engineers to sit without work for more than six months;

(b) whether this number of idle software engineers working with top Indian IT companies will further rise when new campus recruits join the work force from July this year; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government proposes to take to remove uncertainly in IT market which could lead to retrenchment of many engineers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software & Services Companies (NASSCOM) the $100 billion revenue is a projection of the IT-ITES revenue (including hardware) both for exports and domestic for FY2011-12. Out of this IT-ITES exports (excluding hardware) has contributed US $68.7 billion in FY2011-12 as compared to US $59 billion in FY2010-11. During this period direct employment by IT-ITES sector has increased from 2.54 million to 2.77 million, with a net addition of 2.3 lakh to its work force.

(c) Government extends several incentives for Information Technology Sector in the country: (i) Under Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme, approved units are allowed to import goods required by them for carrying on software export activities as per the Foreign Trade Policy. Such goods may be imported either on outright purchase basis or free of cost or on loan basis from the client without payment of custom duty. Apart from this, the approved STP units can avail CST reimbursement, excise duty exemption on procurement of indigenously available capital goods, components and other specified goods, (ii) Besides, software is also exempted from basic customs duty, (iii) 235 IT-ITES specific Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been notified across the country, which are contributing to IT-ITES exports. Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act provides for a deduction from the total income of hundred percent of profits and gains derived by a unit located in a SEZ from the export of articles or things or from services for the first 5 consecutive assessment years, of fifty percent for further 5 assessment years and

thereafter, of fifty per cent of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years, (iv) The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme assists exporters for export promotion activities abroad. (v)Also, a high level Committee has been constituted to review taxation of Development Centres and the IT Sector so as to have a fair tax system in line with best international practice which will promote India's software industry and promote India as a destination for investment and for establishment of Development Centres.

Use of subsidised diesel by cellular operators

1471. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the corrective actions taken by the Ministry on the fact that cellular operators are using subsidised diesel in generators for their mobile towers and the consumption of subsidised diesel is increasing rapidly; and

(b) whether Government is going to issue directives to Mobile Operators to use solar energy for their mobile towers so that consumption of subsidised diesel can be avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) The Diesel available in market is being used to run the generator sets to power Mobile Base Terminal Stations as standby power supply. The Government has accepted the TRAI recommendations on Green Energy applications and issued directives to the licensees/all ILD service providers to adopt measures to green the Telecom sector by providing hybrid power [Renewable Energy Technologies (RET) + Grid power] of at least 50% of all rural towers & 20% of urban towers by 2015 and 75% of rural towers and 33% of urban towers by 2020.

Mobile phone network in Nathu La

1472. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: