

Sambalpur Postal Division in Odisha

2213. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Sambalpur Postal Division in Odisha was downgraded into Class-II division without any valid reasons; and

(b) by when Sambalpur Postal Division is going to be upgraded into Class-I division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, Sambalpur Postal Division in Odisha Circle was downgraded in 1996 from Group 'A' to Group 'B' (Class II) on account of the fourth Cadre Review of Indian Postal-Service.

(b) At present, there is no proposal for upgradation of Sambalpur Postal Division into a Group 'A' Division.

Shortage of telephone instruments for MTNL and BSNL

†2214. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL and BSNL are facing acute shortage of telephone instruments across the country for the last two-three years;

(b) whether manufacturing of instruments is not in proportion to the number of consumers and the Department is denying new connections to consumers on account of non-availability of instruments; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to compete with private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are not facing shortage of telephone instruments in the country and they are not denying new connections on account of non-availability of telephone instruments.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Radiation emission levels in mobile handsets

2215. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any laboratory in the country to test the SAR value of mobile handsets, imported and manufactured in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the mobile handsets identified with radiation emission levels higher than the prescribed norms, company-wise; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to ban the use of such handsets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) under Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is in the process of setting up Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) laboratory in the country to test the SAR value of mobile handsets.

- (c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) DoT *vide* Office Memorandum No.18-10/2008-IP dated 25th January, 2012 as amended *vide* Office Memorandum No. 18-10/2008-IP dated 17th August, 2012, has notified the following revised SAR limit for compliance.

- (i) SAR level for mobile handset shall be limited to 1.6 Watt/Kg. averaged over a mass of 1 gram of human tissue.
- (ii) All the new design of mobile handsets shall comply with the SAR value of 1.6 W/Kg averaged over 1 gram tissue w.e.f. 1st September, 2012. However, the mobile handsets with existing designs which are compliant with 2.0 W/Kg averaged over 10 gram tissue, may continue to co-exist upto 31st August, 2013.
- (iii) From 1st September, 2013, only the mobile handsets with revised SAR value of 1.6 W/Kg would permitted to be manufactured or imported in India for domestic market.

Social security measures for casual workers in BSNL

2216. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any complaints have been received by Government that the rules regarding minimum wages and social security measures like EPF, ESI, etc. are not being implemented for the casual and contract workers in BSNL; and
- (b) if so, the action taken to ensure that the minimum wages and social security measures, etc. are implemented by BSNL Management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) regarding non-implementation of minimum wages and Social Security measures like EPF, ESI