

- (a) whether Government would provide the people of remote rural areas of Uttarakhand with good quality mobile services;
- (b) if so, whether Government would give licences to the private players so as to put Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in competition; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Some complaints have been received from the mobile subscribers of BSNL in rural/remote areas of Uttarakhand regarding Quality of Service (QoS). However, BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) is in general, meeting the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). In addition to BSNL, 10 private telecom operators are also providing telecom services in Uttarakhand.

Revenue of post offices

2386. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that revenue of post offices, across the country, is decreasing day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to mitigate this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Revenue from Post Offices across the country for the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crores)			
Revenue Heads	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (Upto Oct., 2012)
Postal Operations/ SBCC	6266.70	6962.33	7910.52	5147.03*

*SBCC figures have been calculated notionally.

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

Expansion of telecom services in rural areas

2387. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has implemented TRAI's recommendations of October, 2005 for expansion of telecom services in rural areas;
- (b) details of villages yet to be provided with telephone connectivity separately with landline or mobile and reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) time-frame fixed to connect the unconnected villages and action plan prepared for the same;
- (d) whether private telecom operators are delaying launch of their mobile services under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and are not installing mobile towers in rural areas;
- (e) if so, details thereof, operator-wise; and
- (f) action including penal action taken against erring operators, operator-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken on the decisions of Department of Telecommunications on the Recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 'Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India-The Way Forward' - October 3, 2005.

(b) and (c) The details of villages yet to be connected with Basic Telephone facility (Land Line + Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are given in Statement-I (*See* below). About 57,271 villages in the country are yet to be connected with mobile services, as per the survey carried out by TERM Cells of Department of Telecommunication and details of such villages are given in Statement-II (*See* below). BSNL has planned to provide connectivity to technically feasible uncovered villages with basic telephone facility by 31.03.2013.

(d) and (e) There have been delays by Private Operators as well as by BSNL in launching their mobile services under Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme of USOF.