

(a) whether Government is aware that mobile services remain disrupted in remote areas of Uttarakhand due to weak network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) the details of efforts made by the Ministry to ensure that the benefits of mobile services reach the people of remote areas of the State; and

(c) whether the Ministry would provide better services than the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily in its Licensed Service Areas including Uttarakhand and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). However, due to road widening works in remote hilly areas undertaken by various agencies in Uttarakhand, the transmission media gets affected badly and its restoration takes longer time due to climatic condition and road approach not being proper in remote hilly terrain. Due to disturbance in transmission media, mobile services get affected.

BSNL augments its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. BSNL is also optimizing its network continuously for its performance. For expansion and improvement of mobile services in Uttarakhand, various steps are being taken by BSNL like re-orientation of antenna, regular monitoring of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites, upgradation in configuration of BTS etc.

In remote/rural areas of Uttarakhand circle, the telecom services provided by BSNL are, in general, better or comparable to the private operators.

#### **Economic losses suffered by Railway Departments**

†\*27. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal from Railways to cut the expenditure to be incurred on development in order to adjust imbalance between income and expenditure of its budget;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the estimated amount to be cut down during the current year;
- (c) whether Government has identified those Railway Departments where Railways have to bear economic losses almost every year; and
- (d) if so, the names of such Departments and the amount of average economic loss in each Department, per annum?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the trend of shortfall in generation of targeted internal resources, the plan outlay for the current year has been reassessed downward from ₹ 60,100 cr. to ₹ 55,881 cr.

(c) and (d) Railways are run as a single integrated organization, its accounts are not maintained department-wise and profitability is not calculated on departmental lines. On overall basis, the earnings have always exceeded expenditure. The position of earnings and working expenses (including pension) of Railways in the last three years is as under:—

(₹ in cr.)

Year	Earnings	Working Expenses (including Pension)
2010-11	94,526	83,959
2011-12	1,04,154	92,147
2012-13 (BE)	1,28,429	1,02,900

#### **Organic farming**

\*28. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote organic farming in the country;
- (b) whether Government is taking action to spread awareness about organic farming at the grassroot level; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government of India is promoting organic farming through National Project on Organic