

Subsidiary companies of BSNL

47. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is considering to set up two separate subsidiary companies for tower related infrastructure, land bank and other real estate assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL has received a recommendation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. (SHRIMATI) KRUPARANI KILLI): (a) and (b) BSNL has floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) for appointment of consultant to advise and assist it in setting up a separate subsidiary company for tower related infrastructure. However, presently, there is no proposal under consideration of BSNL for setting up of separate subsidiary company for land bank and other real estate.

(c) and (d) Government had set up a Committee in January 2010 under Shri Sam Pitroda to review the functioning of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The recommendations of the Committee for creating separate subsidiary companies on tower infrastructure and land bank are as follows:

- (i) To create a separate subsidiary company for tower related infrastructure to aggressively market to other public and private sector customers and unlock the whole/substantial potential value through strategic stake sale, M&A or separate IPO. Committee also recommended exploring possibilities of monetizing other such subsystems e.g. interconnect operations.
- (ii) To create a separate subsidiary to hold undeveloped land bank and other real estate assets and a large number of unutilized staff quarter, etc. Committee further recommended to monetize the value of this subsidiary by collaborating with a reputed and experienced real estate related company in a transparent manner.

Fraudulent practices by e-commerce companies

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