

undertaken by the Authority, in addition to the issue of the above amendment, TRAI issued the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (11th Amendment) Regulations 2013 and the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (12th Amendment) Regulations 2013 on 24.05.2013.

Closure of telegram services

†1146. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has completely closed down its oldest telegram services;
- (b) if so, when this service has been closed and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was offering telegraph services in the country. The telegram services have been discontinued *w.e.f.* 15.7.2013. The telegram services have been discontinued as new modes of communication are now available. These modes of communication are more economical, faster and more reliable in comparison to telegram services which led to a decreased usage of these services over time and declining revenues for BSNL.

Mobile towers

†1147. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government maintains a record of mobile towers erected/ set up without obtaining prior approval of concerned local bodies and authorities in different parts of the country, and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the fixed criterion/ guidelines for setting up of mobile towers;
- (c) whether a large number of mobile towers have been set up near and around residential areas, Government buildings, schools etc.; and
- (d) if so, the State/Union Territory/ company-wise details of such mobile towers indicating details of steps taken by Government for removing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per existing policy,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.