

(e) The expenditure incurred by BSNL for per day operations is not captured in the books of BSNL. However, total expenditure as per audited books of accounts of BSNL for the financial year 2013-14 is ₹34,929.60 crores.

Production of indigenous SIM cards

681. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite enough production in the country, 40 per cent of SIM cards sold in the country are imported, mostly from China;

(b) whether National Security Council, the apex agency looking into the country's political, economic, energy and strategic concerns, has warned that these SIMs may make Telecom and Banking sector vulnerable and wants DoT to ensure that all SIM cards used in the country are produced domestically, if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether the Council also proposed setting up of an agency, such as Telecom Engineering Centre, to inspect and certify security measures instituted by each SIM card manufacturing unit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Sir, As per Foreign Trade Policy, SIM cards can be imported freely into the country. As per information received from Smartcard manufacturers' Association of India (SCMA), locally manufactured SIM cards are 42 crores per annum. The import –export data related for the year 2013-14 is as follows:

India's Import from April, 13 to March, 14

Commodity	Country	Unit	Apr.'13 to Mar.' 14	Apr.'13 to Mar.' 14 Value (INR)
Sim Cards	Peoples Republics of China	No.s	212,804,523	1,614,198,357
	TOTAL (including China)	No.s	294,619,488	2,577,815,726

India's Export from April, 13 to March, 14

Sim Cards	Peoples Republics of China	No.s	1,226,604	46,130,542
	TOTAL (including China)	No.s	259,103,641	5,223,515,217

Source: DGCI&S WEBSITE

(b) and (c) Department of Telecommunications has not received any such instructions from the National Security Council (NSC).

Poor and interrupted connectivity of MTNL mobile services

682. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken note of the poor MTNL mobile services, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to this reason, a large number of subscribers are turning towards private mobile service providers for getting better services;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to verify the truth about this allegation, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to provide uninterrupted mobile services to MTNL/BSNL users?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Government is conscious that the performance of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) needs substantial improvement. MTNL is in financial distress and facing declining revenues from loss of market share, increasing expenditure and inability to invest in expansion of communications network.

However, MTNL, in general, meets the benchmarks of Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) MTNL's service area is limited to Delhi and Mumbai. The main reasons for decline of market share of MTNL in mobile services are as follows:

- (i) Stiff competition in Mobile sector.
- (ii) Aggressive marketing of services by the private telecom operators at different points of time.

Details of number of subscribers who Ported-in and Ported-out in the network of MTNL during the last three years and current year (upto 30.9.2014) are as under :-

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (As on 30.9.2014)
Port-in	23876	26300	16093	9025
Port-out	110371	80587	76762	38808