

CAG's reports on BSNL and MTNL

†*345. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG has severely criticised the working of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the value of the machines which could not be utilised by the said Nigams,

(c) the level at which a decision was taken to purchase these machines and what were the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps Government are taking to provide better facilities to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN). (a) CAG in their Report No 5 of 2004 for the year ended March, 2003 on Telecommunications sector, have reported on the performance of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) including observations on the utilisation of equipment.

(b) In chapters III, IV and VII of the report, observations have been made on infructuous expenditure, leading to idling or under utilization of equipment in BSNL and in the case of MTNL regarding under utilization of duct routes. The monetary value on items contained in these observations is approximately Rs 118.82 crore. Details have been given in the enclosed Statement (see below).

(c) Decisions regarding procurement were taken as per purchase procedure by the Heads of Circles or in the Telecom Commission. Reasons for under utilization of machines are mainly due to technological upgradation, redundancy and special problems of the region.

(d) Both the Nigams are continuously taking steps to improve the facilities to the consumer. These include, *inter-alia*, drastic reduction in the call charges, provision of cellular mobile services, upgradation and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[19 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

modernisation of switching systems, expansion of network, innovative schemes and improvement of billing systems

Statement

*C A G. Report for the year ended March 2003 (No. 5 of 2004)
for BSNL*

Sl No	Para No	Details	Amount	Level at which decision was taken to purchase	Remarks
1	3 4 2	In Bangalore and Hubli sub region 56 microwave systems were not carrying traffic and were not functional	Rs 13 69 crores	Telecom Commission	The Microwave systems were installed and commissioned and later replaced by more reliable OFC media
2	3 6	Maintenance of Satellite Earth Stations (SES)-Out of 108 MCPC VSATs 71 systems valuing Rs 4 4 98 crores were lying either idle or faulty at various places in North Eastern States, Assam, Maharashtra and J&K	Rs 44 98 crore	Telecom Commission	Some of the equipments were installed and commissioned and later became faulty and some equipment could not be commissioned due to non-readiness of infrastructure on account of problem specific to these areas
3	4 6	Infructuous expenditure of Rs 78 22 lakh on procurement of network synchronization equipment-Haryana Circle Rs 31 01 lakh & Chhattisgarh Rs 47 21 lakh	Rs 78 22 lakh	Chief General Manager Haryana and Chhattisgarh Circles	These equipments could not be utilized due to upgradation of these exchanges into C-DOT MAX XL. These are being diverted to other places
4	4 9	Idling of Radio equipment worth Rs 3 crore due to availability of alternate reliable media in Southern Telecom Project circles	Rs 3 crore	Telecom Commission	The equipment could not be gainfully utilized due to availability of alternate medium as OFC Media. This is being utilized now
5	4 12	Blocking of funds of Rs 1 61 crore on CCB Telephone-CGMTS Kolkata	Rs 1 61 crore	CGMTS Kolkata	As the manufacturing was being closed and as such one time requirement was procured. The balance quantity is to be utilized progressively
6	4 15	Purchase of unsuitable 11 m Antenna between Enakulam and Lakshadweep during 2000-02 worth Rs 78 87 lakh	Rs 78 87 lakh	Telecom Commission	Exemption of pre dispatch quality assurance inspection led to procurement of antenna, which did not confirm to specification. Later relaxation was given and the Antenna was utilized and is still in use

*C A.G. Report for the year ended March 2003 (No 5 of 2004)
for MTNL*

Sl No	Para No	Details	Amount	Level at which decision was taken to purchase	Remarks
1	7 17 1	Due to improper planning and introduction of WLL technology, 46 duct routes were not utilized after being constructed at a cost of Rs. 49.84 crore	Rs 49 84cr	ED Mumbai/ Delhi	As per the Audit report only 4 of the 46 routes were fully utilized Ducts are planned on a longer horizon and their unutilization is a long drawn process As cable plans need periodical review in the light of change of technology & demands, their utilization also can't match projection However under utilization of cables has resulted because of use of other better, faster and cheaper mode of technology which became available
2	7 17 2	No detail of route diagram or record of A/T are available in respect of a duct route in Bandra constructed as per record at a cost of Rs 1 44 cr	Rs 1 44 cr	ED Mumbai	The first duct was constructed below the Railway crossing in 1996 A second route on highway was constructed in 2001 Both the ducts are available and records may be verified
3	7 17 3	Mumbai unit spend Rs 1 99 cr Mumbai construction of duct routes in 2002-03 where ducts already existed	Rs 1 99 cr	ED Mumbai	This is not duplicate expenditure as different routes were required to provide for different cables in accordance with system of SDH ring formation so that alternate cables are available in event of one cable failure

Call girls from Central Asian countries coming to India on tourist visas

***346. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that call girls from Central Asian countries are coming to India with tourist visa;