

Undertakings, 3 coal mines are operational and remaining Schedule II coal mines are awaiting various clearances/judgment for operationalization. The production in the year 2016-17 from the auctioned/allotted operational coal mines is 15.3 MT as compared to yearly production of 15.8 MT in the pre-allocation period (2014-15) Schedule III (non-operational) coal mines were at different stages of development at the time of allocation. Out of the 14 Schedule III coal mines auctioned, mining opening permission has been granted in 1 coal mine and the remaining Schedule III coal mines are scheduled to be operational from 2018 onwards. Further, out of 35 allotted (Schedule III and Schedule I) coal mines, 2 coal mines of Schedule III have been granted Mining Opening Permission. Remaining Schedule III and Schedule I coal mines are scheduled to be operational from June, 2018 onwards.

Casual and Contract Labourers in BSNL, Uttarakhand

†1336. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that the labourers working on casual and contract basis in Uttarakhand, BSNL, have not been paid their labour charges;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Ministry, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) total number of labourers working on casual and contract basis in the State in the financial year 2016-17 and details of payments made to them; and

(d) whether Government would consider to provide permanent appointment to labourers, working on casual and contract basis for a long time in the State, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) There are no unpaid casual labourer in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Uttarakhand. However, contract labourers in SSAs (Secondary Switching Areas) of Srinagar, New Tehri and Almora of Uttarakhand have not been paid by the contractors.

As a principal employer, BSNL is duty-bound to ensure timely payment to contract labourers by the contractors. Contractors in these SSAs have been asked to release the payment to contract workers as per terms and conditions of the contract, at the earliest.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Details of labourers working on casual and contract basis in the Uttarakhand in the financial year 2016-17 and details of payment made to them are as detailed below:—

Sl. No.	Status of labourers	Number of labourers in Uttarakhand in 2016-17	Payment made during the FY-2016-17
1.	Casual labourers	6 (5—Temporary Status Mazdoor 1—Daily rated Mazdoor)	₹ 11,73,887/-
2.	Contract labourers	768	₹ 7,26,73,834/-

(d) BSNL does not have any proposal for permanent appointment to labourers working on casual/contract basis, in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 10.04.2006 in Civil Appeal Nos. 3595-3612 of 1999 in the matter of Secretary, State of Karnataka and Ors *Vs* Smt. Uma Devi and Ors, the regularisation of the existing casual labourers and contract workers in BSNL is not possible.

Mobile telephone connectivity in Punjab and Haryana

1337. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages and some urban areas in Punjab and Haryana are yet to be connected with mobile telephones;

(b) if so, the details of such villages and urban areas;

(c) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges working in both the States, Circle-wise;

(d) the details of mobile towers and telephone exchanges likely to be installed in these States; and

(e) the action taken by Government to provide telephone connectivity to the left out villages/areas in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Majority of villages and urban areas have been connected with mobile telephone. In Punjab, out of 12,586 inhabited villages; only 24 villages are yet to be connected with mobile phone and in Haryana State, out of 6,841 inhabited villages; only 10 villages are yet to be covered with mobile connection. Details of the unconnected villages of Punjab and Haryana States are given in the Statement-I and II (*See* below).