

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

†4558. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to merge BSNL and MTNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government proposes to introduce VRS in both the entities based on Gujarat pattern; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with its outlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for merger of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited BSNL and Mananagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(c) and (d) MTNL has submitted a proposal to the Department of Telecommunications for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) based on Gujarat pattern. The proposal is for 20% of its employees and seeks 100% Government support of ₹ 1067 crores for implementation of VRS.

The proposal of MTNL is under consideration of the Department.

Stock holdings of sugar by States

4559. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any notification to State Governments to keep the sugar stock holding to 17 per cent of the total production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has received any request from Government of Tamil Nadu to exempt the State in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the Central Government's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Central

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.