

(b) whether there is any effort by private operators to scuttle the performance of MTNL and BSNL; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Proposals for allotment of spectrum, with Government support, for providing 4G services by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been received in Department of Telecommunications (DoT). BSNL has already started 4G services in a few Licensed Service Areas (LSAs).

(b) and (c) MTNL and BSNL have not reported any involvement of private operators trying to scuttle their performance.

Ground Based Towers in rural areas of Nellore

1347. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that in the absence of Ground Based Towers (GBTs) in rural areas of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, BSNL is finding it difficult to provide smooth and fast transmission of mobile coverage;

(b) whether it is a fact that Nellore SSA identified some places for GBTs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made in construction of GBTs in the identified areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) For smooth and fast transmission of mobile coverage in rural areas of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has identified places for setting up Ground Based Towers (GBTs) as detailed below:—

Sl.No.	Name of Place	Status
1.	Koturupalli	Tower erected and mobile services already commissioned.
2.	Sihar	Tower construction completed.
3.	Annekepalli	Tower construction completed.
4.	Annamedu	Foundation work completed and tower to be erected.