

exchange capacity of over one lakh, the rentals prescribed by TRAI were 24% higher for commercial subscribers than for non-commercial ones.

(c) and (d) The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has not yet implemented the higher rental for commercial users.

**Mobile phone facility in Kashmir and NER**

3834. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3864 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 2001 and state the reasons behind not allowing private companies and BSNL in Kashmir and NER to operate mobile telephone when the militants are freely using all sorts of advance communications network and thereby depriving only the common people to use this mobile telephony required for their own safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is operational, at present, in Guwahati and Shillong. Further expansion or fresh start of CMTS is not permitted, at present, by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle, North-East and Assam Telecom Circles on security considerations and in view of the prevailing situation.

**Regularisation of data entry operations in DOT**

3835. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication and MTNL have been separated;

(b) whether the Data Entry Operators working on contract basis in the Department of Telecommunication since February, 1999 have not been regularised;