

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;

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(c) whether Government would regularise their services; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) MTNL is a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Telecommunication in the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tensile strength of aerogrammes

3836. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aerogrammes in India are made of recycled paper and therefore they do not have proper tensile strength;

(b) whether it has been brought to Government's notice that they are not withstanding machine handling in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The aerogrammes in India were made of 56 GSM blue wave-paper at India Security Press and these had proper tensile strength.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some reports to this effect have been received by the Government.

(c) A new aerogramme on 70 GSM blue wave-paper with higher tensile strength has been released with effect from 1st January, 2002.