

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:85

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN TELECOM SERVICE OFFICERS

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether about 1200 Indian Telecom Service Officers who were on deputation to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) were removed from service and repatriated to their parent Department;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this action is likely to adversely affect the working of the telecom services in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether adequate measures have been taken to ensure smooth functioning of telecom services after removal of trained manpower from their posts in the sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (f) On corporatisation of service providing functions of the Department of Telecommunications, officers working in Department of Telecom Services (DTS) and Department of Telecom Operations (DTO) were transferred to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) on deemed deputation basis. These officers were required to give their option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL or revert back to the Government. Accordingly about 3,97,000 employees belonging to Group B, C and D gave their respective option, and their absorption process (Group B in MTNL and Group B, C and D in BSNL) was completed by 2003-2004. The process of absorption of Group A officers (numbering about 3000, including 2,200 ITS) commenced in March, 2005. In order to seek their option, letter dated 24.03.2005 was issued. On expiry of the sanctioned term of deemed deputation on 15.10.2005, another letter dated 18.10.2005 was issued by the Department of Telecommunications regarding repatriation of all such Group A officers [of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services] who had either not exercised their option or had opted for Government service provided such officers were not covered by the interim stay orders granted by various courts.

2. This action has not affected the Telecom Services in the country. This is because alternative arrangements have been made by posting officers who have opted for BSNL/MTNL from Group A, B categories in Exchanges. These measures have been adequate for smooth functioning of telecom services.

3. A large number of cases filed by Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services individually and through their Associations challenging the letters dated 24.03.2005 and /or 18.10.2005 are pending adjudication by various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and High Courts. As on date, pending final disposal of cases, interim orders of various Benches of CAT and High Courts are in operation.

4. Thus, the subject matter of absorption of Group A officers in BSNL/MTNL and of repatriation of Group A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) and other services pursuant to the letter dated 24.03.2005 and /or 10.10.2005 being under adjudication by the courts of law, is at present sub-judice.