

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:5
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006
POPULARISATION OF MOBILE PHONE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PSUs
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) WHETHER Garuda and Dolphin Mobile services provided by the public sector undertakings have not been popular as compared to their counterparts in the private sector in the present competitive scenario;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently undertaken any study on their slow growth;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the study; and
- (e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to make the mobile services offered by the public sector undertakings more attractive, competitive and popular in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 5 FOR 17TH FEBRUARY, 2006 REGARDING POPULARISATION OF MOBILE PHONE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PSUs.

(a) Both Garuda (Limited mobile services) and Dolphin (Fully mobile service) of MTNL are postpaid services. It is a common practice that demand of prepaid services is much more than postpaid services. As on 31.01.2006, out of all mobile services in MTNL, 71% connections were in the prepaid segment as against 29% in postpaid segment.

There is no service corresponding to Garuda (Limited Mobility) being given by private operators. MTNL mobile services are in line with the post paid services of private operators.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) Steps taken by MTNL and BSNL to make mobile services more attractive and competitive are given in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STEPS TAKEN BY MTNL & BSNL TO POPULARISE THEIR MOBILE SERVICES

1. Both MTNL & BSNL have launched `OneIndia plan` with effect from 01.03.2006 with reduction in call rates so as to make the services including GSM and WLL services more popular.
2. Both the PSUs are having various schemes to make the mobile services (both GSM & WLL) more popular in different segments of the society. BSNL has schemes like Student Power 99 Plan and Government employees plans launched in recent times.
3. MTNL is providing a large number of value added services to its cellular mobile subscriber like call forwarding, call waiting, CLI, Voice Mail Service (VMS), Short Message Service (SMS), itemized bill/detail bill, all India roaming, international roaming, PSTN bill viewing on SMS, Closed User Group (CUG) service etc.
4. MTNL has commissioned additional 6 lac lines each of New GSM system with GPRS and MMS software in the core area, which provides high-speed data and sending of message with video & audio. This capacity has been nearly consumed.
5. MTNL is adding another 2 lakhs lines each in Delhi/Mumbai by March 2006 to meet the ever-increasing demand. Further, MTNL plans to procure 2 million lines each for Delhi/Mumbai i/c 3G GSM Network to be commissioned in 2006-07 in line with the emerging trends.

6. GSM network at Delhi/Mumbai is being optimized continuously to improve the coverage and capacity.
7. MTNL shall be adding additional 96 BTS by 3/06 in Delhi/Mumbai to further improve the coverage & capacity of GSM subscribers.
8. MTNL has commissioned a new billing solution for the cellular mobile subscribers to address the various options of the subscriber in respect of their bills.
9. 400K lines of CDMA 2000 1X type network which will provide voice, data at 140 Kbps, SMS and supporting value added services is being commissioned each at Mumbai and Delhi.
10. BSNL has built up extensive network of franchisees in addition to its customer service centers so that the mobile services and other products can be made available to the customers in the vicinity of their offices/homes.
11. BSNL is trying to provide all value added services to its customers which are offered by competitors.
12. BSNL has covered all major rail routes and highway routes and is in the process of covering all highways and localities having population of more 5000. This will enable customers to enjoy unmatched coverage and connectivity.