

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1084
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
STEPS TO CHECK NETWORK CONGESTION .
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

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

- (a) Whether the network congestion in mobile networks is increasing and causing serious inconveniences to mobile users and TRAI has allegedly hauled up the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in this regard as reported in The Economic Times dated July 3, 2006;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) The action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Sir, Congestion level in the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in general within the benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

As regards the said newspaper report, BSNL had received letter from TRAI with regard to congestion at Point of Interconnection (POI). The list of POIs with congestion as forwarded by TRAI contained quite a small percentage of number of locations where POIs exist. The position of BSNL in this regard was clarified to TRAI. BSNL has taken number of steps to streamline the procedures for providing POIs and many of the POIs are currently being provided within 90 days to 120 days time though the interconnection agreement between BSNL and the private operators provide a time frame of 12 months.

Many a times provision of POI is delayed even if BSNL has made necessary arrangements, due to the non-readiness of the private operators. Operators are also continuously announcing new tariff plans which lead to spurt in traffic and thereby congestion in some places. Additional POI capacity required cannot be provided immediately as due process has to be followed.

BSNL has also requested private operators to give their demand forecast so that advance planning for procurement of equipment, need for provision of POIs, can be done to the extent feasible.

(c) Following action have been taken by the Government in this regard.

(i) Holding periodic meetings with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the private Cellular Mobile Service Providers

(CMSPs) to facilitate provision of interconnection.

(ii) Pursuing with local authorities for expeditious clearance of cell sites.