

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1208
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
PRIVATE CELL PHONE COMPANIES
Satheedevi Smt. P.

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

- (a) the number of private cell phone companies operating in the country;
- (b) the criteria for starting new companies;
- (c) whether the private cell phone companies are providing more attractive schemes to customers which drastically affects BSNL and MTNL; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) 27 private companies have been licensed to operate in the country for providing access services including cell phone services.
- (b) A new company can be started as per provisions in the Companies Act, 1956.
- (c) & (d) As per Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), their schemes are equally attractive and affordable as per market requirement and suiting all segments of society.