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Title: Need to improve the functioning of BSNL and MTNL in the country.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, Sir.

In the last one and a half decades we have been proudly claiming that we have revolutionised the state of communications in the country. However, I am very sorry to say that the services of BSNL and MTNL have gone from bad to worse. If you sit inside a building, you will not have the network. If you come out of the building and try to connect, the message 'Network is busy' appears. The state of telecommunication service of BSNL has become much worse in Karnataka and especially in Bangalore. The same is the case with Delhi. After great difficulty if you are able to establish connectivity, the call gets disconnected after a couple of minutes. When asked about the reasons for this, some of the senior officers of MTNL and BSNL say that there are problems with the import of some tower related equipment and that there are also some problems at the highest level in the Government because of some differences between an old Minister of Telecommunications and today's Minister of Telecommunications.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): The issue raised is related to the equipment and not to the Ministers, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you only make very precisely the point. You are not to talk about other related subjects.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : I am not blaming anybody. What I am saying is that because of some problems at the highest level in the Government, non-availability of equipment is creating problems as far as the services of MTNL and BSNL are concerned. The people at large are getting a feeling that there are some vested interests at work to benefit some private operators. That is why I urge upon the Government of India, particularly the Minister of Telecommunications, to look into the matter and arrange for better services. In the company I run I use only the BSNL network. All the phones, mobile and fixed lines, that I use in my business are of BSNL. That is why I urge upon the Government to look into this and improve the BSNL and MTNL services as early as possible.