

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5244  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001  
DISINVESTMENT OF MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED  
AMIR ALAM KHAN

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the employee unions of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has formed a joint front to try and stop the disinvestments of Government majority equity in it;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith their grievances thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Executives and Non-Executives of MTNL have formed a joint front against

- i) alleged disinvestment of MTNL shares.
- ii) Review and reversal of the existing decision to make payment of pension and other retirement benefits from a Pension Fund.

(c) i) As of now, there is no proposal to disinvest the MTNL shares  
ii) As per Department of Pension and pensioners Welfare OM dated 1.6.2000, the PSUs only have to make payment of pension and other retirement benefits to the absorbed employees and not the Government. Accordingly, to ensure continued and uninterrupted payment of pension and retirement benefits to the MTNL employees, it has been decided, in consultation with the recognised union(s) of MTNL, to create a Pension Fund under the Chairmanship of CMD, MTNL which would have also members from DoT and the recognised union(s) one each from Delhi and Mumbai Units.