

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:257

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007

PROBLEM IN MOBILE NETWORK

Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

(a) whether TRAI has expressed serious concern on June, 2007 on the deteriorating quality of service due to the call congestion on the interconnection point of Government/Private mobile service providers and the overload of calls and at the same time asked them to improve the condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the condition has improved after the warning of TRAI ;

(d) If not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) the action likely to be taken by the Government in this regard ;

(f) whether there is provision for punitive action against such exploitation of subscribers ;

(g) if so, the details thereof ;

(h) the comparative details of the number of subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and private operators during the last three years; and

(i) the reasons for decrease in number of subscribers?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) while releasing the Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion report for the period January – March, 2007, on 18.06.2007, had expressed concern over Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion between service providers.

(b)The analysis of POI congestion report for the period January – March, 2007, inter-alia, shows that:-

In respect of POIs from Private Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL), the number of POIs having congestion has increased from 300 in December, 2006 to 337 in March, 2007.

During the same period POI congestion among Private CMSPs has also increased from 89 in December, 2006 to 162 in March, 2007.

The service areas mainly affected due to POI congestion are Bihar, Assam Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, North East, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (East), Orissa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kolkata, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) TRAI has not issued any warning to service providers over POI congestion report in June, 2007.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Government is holding periodic meetings with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the private Mobile Servie Providers to facilitate provision of interconnection for improving the quality of mobile services.

(f)&(g) As per Section 29 (penalty for contravention of direction of TRAI) of TRAI act, 1997, if a person violates the direction of the TRAI, such person shall be punishable with fine as per provisions in TRAI, Act, 1997. TRAI has issued a direction on 7th June, 2005 to all service providers to provide Interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker. BSNL had gone to TDSAT against this direction. The matter is pending with TDSAT and sub-judice.

(h)&(i) Details of total number of subscribers of BSNL, MTNL and private operators during the last three years are given below, which shows that the subscribers base of BSNL, MTNL and private operators have increased during the last three years.

Year ending	As on 31.03.2005	As on 31.03.2006	As on 31.03.2007
BSNL	46934950	55159175	64723525
MTNL	5153483	5924428	6666972
Private Operators	46284752	81008426	135436613
Total	98373185	142092029	206827110