GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:726
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
GARUDA AND DOLPHIN MOBILE SERVICE
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

(a) whether Garuda and Dolphin Mobile Services provided by the public sector undertakings have not been popular as compared to their counterparts in the private sector in the present competitive scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has recently undertaken any study on their slow growth; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the study?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Dolphin Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) service of MTNL has been quite popular. The status of Garuda and Dolphin network of MTNL as on 31.01.2008 is given below:

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Type    Capacity Working connections



Dolphin (Prepaid and Postpaid) 23,50,000 30,13,199



Code Division Multiple Access 10,61,500 2,74,106
(CDMA)
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Includes Garuda and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) (fixed).
It is thus seen that the Dolphin capacity is fully utilized. Secondly, MTNL`s Dolphin connection has grown to 720% in last four years (01.04.2003 to 31.03.2007) whereas the connections of Bharti, Idea, Hutch (now Vodafone) have grown by 213%, 280% and 172% respectively during the same period.

Further, MTNL has started the GSM services in 2001 only, whereas the private operators have been providing this service from 1995. Nevertheless, the market share of MTNL in GSM has grown from 4.56% as on 31.03.2003 to 17% (approx) as on 31.03.2007.

MTNL is now expanding its Dolphin network by 750K lines each in Delhi and Mumbai by 31.03.2008 to meet the demand. The equipment is in advance stage of testing.

Garuda (CDMA) service of MTNL is picking up and MTNL is now providing nearly 450 WLL connections per day.

(c) No Sir.

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