

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3994
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
NUMBER OF PRIVATE TELECOM COMPANIES
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) the number of private companies providing cellular phone services in the country alongwith their investment and the number of subscribers, as on date;
- (b) the comparison of private telecom companies with Bharat Sanchar Nigma Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in terms of size, technology and infrastructure;
- (c) whether some of the private telecom companies are using the infrastructural facilities of BSNL and MTNL for their cellular services in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) 134 private licensees are providing mobile telephony services with total subscriber base of 20,86,22,799 till 29th February, 2008 with a total investment of Rs.95,000 crores. Besides these, 120 new private licensees are yet to commence their service.
- (b) The total market share of BSNL and MTNL is 16.86% as on 29th February, 2008 in this segment. The deployment of latest technology for provision of mobile telephone service is a continuous process and BSNL and MTNL are also permitted to deploy GSM as well as CDMA macro-cellular architecture based technologies for provision of such services. The technology deployed by BSNL and MTNL is comparable with that of private operators. BSNL and MTNL are the incumbent operators in terms of infrastructure for provision of inter and intra service area long distance services while the private companies have commenced their roll-out at a later date as compared to both Public Sector Units. Thus, their infrastructure cannot be compared in equitable terms.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Subject to technical feasibility and commercial arrangements, some private telecom companies are using passive infrastructure facilities of BSNL and MTNL, such as building space, ducts, towers.