

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:404
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
BSNL NETWORK IN LADAKH
Khan Shri Hassan

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

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) network in Ladakh (J & K) is very bad and the people at Leh and Kargil are holding demonstration for better network;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the Government for providing better network in the region;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce other telecom service provider into Ladakh sectors;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) & (b) The telecom services provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Ladakh region are, in general, satisfactory. However, telecom services to BSNL customers sometimes get affected due to Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) breakdown between Kargil and Srinagar. During the month of August, 2010 entire facility of BSNL at Leh Telephone exchange got washed away in a flash flood which included Mobile Switching Center (MSC) for Ladakh, TAX (Trunk Automated Exchange), Satellite based back up system, etc. This facility used to serve the whole Ladakh Region including Leh and Kargil. Several times OFC route between Leh and Srinagar become snow bound and inaccessible, which takes time for restoration in case of failure.

(c) For providing better network and services in the Ladakh region, BSNL has taken the following steps:

- (i) A separate technical building at Leh at a safer place for Mobile Switching Center.
- (ii) Base Station Controller (BSC) of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) is also planned at Kargil.
- (iii) Trunk Automated Exchange (TAX) at Leh for improvement of Landline Services.
- (iv) 34 mbps Satellite system at Leh and 8 mbps Satellite system at Kargil for providing backup media in case of OFC media failure for improvement.

(d) & (e) As on date, the following telecom service providers, other than BSNL have been granted Unified Access Services (UAS) license to provide telecom services in State of Jammu & Kashmir:

1. Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.
2. Bharti Airtel Ltd.
3. Dishnet Wireless Ltd.
4. Reliance Communications Ltd.
5. Vodafone Essar Spacetel Ltd.
6. Idea Cellular Ltd.
7. Loop Telecom Ltd
8. S.Tel Pvt. Ltd

9. Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd.

10. Tata Tele services Ltd.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) & (e) above.