

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4307

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

ITS OFFICERS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Pathak Shri Harin

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

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL are providing vital infrastructural telecom services with pan India presence and as a result of their presence, telephone call rates have come down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the circumstances which forced Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to repatriate officers of Indian Telecom Services (ITS) from these PSUs without inducting suitable recruits made against them, which has caused shortage of officers in these PSUs;

(d) whether the repatriated officers have been declared as surplus in DoT after their refusal to rejoin these PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the services of these officers are proposed to be utilized and the action taken by the Government to address the staff shortage of BSNL and MTNL?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) BSNL is providing vital infrastructural telecom services with pan India presence excepting Mumbai and Delhi Metros. MTNL is providing these services in Delhi and Mumbai Metros. The telephone call rates are under forbearance and are dependent on various factors including market forces and the competition. There is likelihood of call rates coming down due to increase in competition due to presence of the number of telecom operators. It is observed that after BSNL and MTNL started providing mobile telephony, the rates of mobile services have declined.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to corporatization of BSNL on 1st October, 2000 and absorption of about 3,97,000 Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' officers in BSNL/MTNL, Group 'A' officers of various services under Ministry of Communications & IT including ITS officers were asked to exercise their option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL as per the terms and conditions approved by the Cabinet initially in the year 2005 and later in 2008. In between, the Principal Bench of CAT in its order dated 1st June, 2011, directed Deptt. of Telecommunications not to give any further opportunity to its Group 'A' officers, who continue to be on deemed deputation to BSNL and to repatriate them to their parent Department. As per the decision taken in the Department, final opportunity was given to all Group 'A' officers in September, 2011 for exercising their option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL.

The officers on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL but not opting for absorption in BSNL/MTNL till the last date prescribed for exercising option i.e. on 8.11.2011, stood reverted/repatriated to the Government.

As on 30.04.2012, out of 1454 Group 'A' ITS officers on deemed deputation to BSNL and MTNL, 394 have been relieved to join Department of Telecommunications. It has not resulted in disruption of any of the services of BSNL and MTNL.

Both BSNL and MTNL have already initiated the process of recruitment at senior and middle management level exclusively from Group 'A' ITS officers.

After repatriation, such Group 'A' officers including ITS officers who opt to continue in Government service but are found to be in excess of requirement of the Department of Telecommunications are to be redeployed through the Surplus Cell of the Government in terms and sub-rule (6) of rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 and Department of Personnel & Training instructions regarding redeployment of surplus staff.