

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4270

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012

MONETIZING LAND BANKS AND TOWERS

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

- (a) the details of the land banks with their market value held by BSNL and MTNL;
- (b) the details of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and their network capacity of telecom companies, company-wise including BSNL and MTNL;
- (c) whether BSNL and MTNL are planning to monetize its land banks and BTSs/tower networks to earn more revenue and improve its financial position;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken and success achieved in this regard so far;
- (e) whether the Navratna status of MTNL is at stake due to its financial performance; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are having 15006 and 55 lands respectively. The market value of these lands has not been assessed.

(b) Telecom Service Providers including BSNL and MTNL augment their network capacities as per their techno-commercial considerations. However, the details of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of Telecom Service Providers including BSNL and MTNL, as on 30.09.2012, are given in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) BSNL and MTNL have planned to monetize their land banks and passive infrastructure of BTS towers to earn more revenues. The Details are as follows:

BSNL

A consultant has been appointed by BSNL to suggest the methodologies/manner in which the gains from the lands can be maximised / monetized. To monetize its BTS Towers, BSNL has entered into an agreement with major Telecom Service Providers for sharing its BTS sites. A total of 2010 tower sites have been leased out on sharing basis.

MTNL

Development of Core Knowledge Park at Noida (UP) measuring 80,000 sq.mt. has been awarded to M/s IDEB-SUCG Knowledge Park (P) Ltd. on PPP (Public Private Partnership) model in year 2007. To monetize its BTS Towers, MTNL has shared its 25 BTS sites.

(e)&(f) Based on selected parameters, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) decided to divest the Navratna status of MTNL. However, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has requested the DPE to allow MTNL to continue with its present status.