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Title : Need to look into the problems being faced by Group 'A' officers in BSNL and MTNL.

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (MANDVI): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a matter which relates to around 2000 highly skilled expert pool of officers who have been recruited by UPSC for the telecom sector in our country. The way absorption issue of Group 'A' officers in BSNL and MTNL has been dealt so far has given a serious blow to morale of this specialized, highly skilled and widely experienced cadre.

In spite of their outstanding contribution in making our country major telecom hub in the region, their genuine concerns regarding service matters are not being given due care. It is troubling to learn that against their legitimate concerns regarding service related matters, wrong signals are being sent from the Government by way of forcing a contingency like situation without any provocation and necessity. The rationale being reported preparations being carried out by Government like deployment of Army and retired personnel is beyond comprehension. This is clearly not an emergency situation as these officers are pursuing their demands on absorption issue in a democratic disciplined way through dialogue and have never resorted to any agitation or other such measures.

Another disturbing fact brought to my notice was that many of the retired officers approached by the Government to replace these ITS officers are at present employed with rival private operators either directly or in consulting capacity. Induction of such officers in BSNL/MTNL even an interim arrangement would amount to compromising the interests of India's biggest telecom undertakings to the unfair advantage of private operators.

Government's kind intervention at this stage is the need of the hour to the best interest of all concerned.