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Title: Need to improve services of BSNL in Ladakh.

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): The people in my constituency Ladakh are extremely agitated over the very poor service by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Mobile and Broad Band services have been extremely erratic. The reasons for poor services are attributed to frequent optical fibre disruption along Srinagar-Leh Highway, traffic congestion, low equipment capacity, frequent fault in old equipment and very low satellite channels. As Hon'ble Minister for Telecom is very well aware of the fact the Ladakh Region remains cut-off from rest of the country for six months during winter and people there expect better services during the period. Ladakh being a very important tourist destination better telecom services is essential during summer months as well. Most unfortunately BSNL has neglected Ladakh during the last two years and there has been virtually no expansion/installation of mobile equipment, improvement of media and capacity upgradation through Universal Services Obligation (USO) fund and USO funding for mobile towers in remote areas of Ladakh. Besides there is acute shortage of staff, Ladakh being a very strategic and sensitive remote region of our country needs special attention. I request Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Information Technology to consider special assistance to Ladakh for improvement of telecom services by BSNL on priority basis.