

# MTNL broadband in net after workers target optic fibres

HINDUSTAN  
TIMES

Manoj Gairola  
New Delhi, May 18

DID YOUR Internet connection die on you while you were surfing your favourite website or booking travel tickets online on Monday?

If so, you may be one of the 3.25 lakh subscribers of the government-owned Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) who were inadvertent victims of agitating employees.

The MTNL employees, who were demanding a pay-hike, cut data-carrying optical fibre cables at eight places as a mark of protest.

Some subscribers could not get broadband connection, while others faced slow down in speed.

About 4,000 group "B" (who are these?) employees of MTNL are on strike seeking higher salary.

"The lines have been cut by agitating Group B employees," said R.S.P. Sinha, chairman and managing director, MTNL. "We have lodged a complaint with the police and are trying to rectify the problem."

Some companies who use MTNL's leased lines also suf-

“ The lines have been cut by agitating Group B employees. We have lodged a complaint with the police and are trying to rectify the problem. ”

— R.S.P. SINHA  
MTNL chairman

fered. Companies use leased lines for carrying data traffic.

MTNL has not yet conceded to employee demands. Currently, 45 per cent of the company's revenue goes towards the salary of its employees. It has about 40,000 group "C" and group "D" employees.

"We cannot accept their demands," Sinha said. "If we give higher wages to group "B" employees then we will have to give high wages to 40,000 other employees. Its financial implications are not sustainable."

The agitating employees also disconnected some lease lines between Delhi and Mumbai. This affected data traffic between the two cities.

manoj.gairola@hindustantimes.com