

In addition, private operators also provide mobile services in rural areas. As a result rural tele-density as on September, 2010 is 28.46% as against 4% by the year 2010 envisaged in NTP 1999.

(b) 153 villages have been covered under Grameen Sanchar Sewak (GSS) Scheme in Andhra Pradesh by BSNL.

(c) Various schemes are being implemented with the financial support from USOF for provision of telecom facilities in rural and remote areas of the country including hilly and tribal areas wherein private service operators are also considered for financial support from USOF Fund.

BSNL loss due to arrears following wage revision

2700. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government running a malicious propaganda campaign that BSNL loss is due to the wage revision arrears paid to the employees without giving any compensation to BSNL for carrying out social responsibilities;

(b) which private sector telecom operator is carrying out social responsibilities in the country; and

(c) the reasons for Government applying several breaks in the timely procurement of the equipment required for expanding the services and denying it the justified compensation for the losses incurred on account of its social responsibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Government/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not running any propaganda campaign (malicious or otherwise) that BSNL loss is due to the wage revision arrears paid to the employees.

(b) All Private Sector Access Telecom Service Providers are contributing their 5% of the Adjust Gross Revenue (AGR) to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is utilized to provide subsidy support for enabling access to all types of telegraph services including mobile services, broadband connectivity and creation of infrastructure like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in rural and remote areas of the country. Some of the schemes run by USOF in rural and remote areas of the country are Village Public Telephones (VPTs), Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme, Rural Broadband Scheme, Optical Fibre Network Augmentation etc.

(c) Timely procurement of equipment is the responsibility of the BSNL and Government does not interfere with the same. However, as regards subsidy support, USOF is providing subsidy to BSNL for the operational sustainability of the rural wirelines installed prior to 01.04.2002 at the rate of Rs. 2000 crores per annum for a period of three years from 18th July, 2008. Till 30.9.2010, subsidy support of Rs. 3407.61 crores has been provided to BSNL under this scheme.