(b) whether it is a fact that they emphasized on Government's across the world to put internet access at the top of their agendas; and

(c) if so, the action that the Ministry is taking to implement its suggestion for the benefit of the Indian people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) No, communication has been received from United Nations in this regards. Nevertheless, it may be mentioned that the Government, under Bharat Nirman II Programme, has set a target of Broadband coverage of all 2,50,000 village Panchayats by 2012. As of August, 2010, 97,392 Village Panchayats have been broadband enabled by BSNL. Internet is available as dial up internet connection and mobile GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) all across the country, including rural areas.

The Government recognizes the potential of ubiquitous Broadband service in growth of GDP and enhancement in quality of life through societal applications including tele-education, tele-medicince, e-goverance, entertainment as well as employment generation by way of high speed access to information and web-based communication. Thus it had finalized "National Broadband Policy 2004" to accelerate the growth of Broadband services across the country.

Through this policy, the Government envisaged creation of adequate infrastructure through various access technologies along with the penetration of PC, which would contribute to the overall growth of Broadband services.

Phone towers by solar energy

329. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make mandatory for mobile phone towers to be powered by solar energy to reduce pollution and hazardous impact on human health in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when use of solar energy for mobile phone towers will be made mandatory in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Government is working on various strategies for using alternate sources of energy including solar energy viable for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country.

Quality of imported mobile phones

330. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced any quality standard for various mobile phones imported and marketed in the country;

(b) if so, whether such quality standard has been followed and checked by the Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) The Government has adopted the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines in telecom sector which includes mobile phones also. According to which, Mobile handsets should comply with basic restriction in terms of SAR [Specific Adsorption Rate] value limited to 2W/kg (average over 10 g of tissue) localized for head and trunk in the frequency range of 10 MHZ to 10 GHZ. The instruction has been issued for compliance of SAR value in respect of indigenous handsets to manufactures in India. For prohibiting import of mobile handsets not compliant with SAR value, matter has been taken up with Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Government has prohibited the following:

(i) Import of 'Mobile Handsets' without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) No. or with all Zeroes IMEI.

(ii) Import of CDMA 'Mobile Phones' without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or with all Zeroes as ESN/MEID.

Handsets without IMEI number

331. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 25 million subscribers who had handsets without IMEI and Government allowed a private agency to implant the number through software for a limited period of time;