

(c) 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, around 97,392 Village Panchayat locations have been made broadband-enabled by BSNL.

(d) The Government, under its Bharat Nirman Programme II, envisages the broadband coverage of all Village Panchayats by 2012.

Akshaya scheme in Kerala

349. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL :

SHRI P. RAJEEVE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Akshaya scheme in Kerala is approved as CSC;

(b) number of centres which are given financial assistance and for how many centres State requested for assistance; and

(c) if the request for all centres are not accepted, will the Ministry consider and give financial assistance to all centres as per the initial understanding with the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Revenue support has been released to the State Government for 227 Community Service Centres(CSCs) as per the approved norm of the CSC Scheme. State Government, however, has requested assistance for all the 2200 Akshaya Centres.

(c) Request for financial assistance for all the centres has not been accepted. As per the CSC Scheme only 1 (one) CSC for every six villages is entitled for revenue support.

BSNL network problem in rural areas

350. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL's landline telephone growth rate is down in past few years because of unaffordable monthly rental and lack of network problem of BSNL particularly in rural areas;

- (b) if so, Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government is considering to issue telephone connections to the customer at one time minimum subscription charge like cellular phone's life time validity;
- (d) if so, Government's response thereto; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir, the decrease in land lines particularly in rural areas is not due to unaffordable monthly rental. Also, there is no network problem of BSNL in rural areas.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) Such tariff plans for landline telephones have not been considered commercially viable.

Simplification of telecom tariffs

351. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is proposing to recover simplified telecom tariffs;
- (b) whether it is a fact that at present there is no transparency in the tariff plans and hence consumer gets confused; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a consultation paper on 13.10.2010 seeking views of stakeholders on certain issues relating to telecom tariff including transparency aspects.