

- **Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and Management:** The Scheme aims to assist Institutions of Higher learning (IITs, IIMs, IIITs and NITs) to strengthen their Technology Incubation Centres and thus enable young entrepreneurs to initiate technology start up companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them.

Financial viability of BSNL and MTNL

1730. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether in order to improve the financial viability of BSNL and MTNL, Government would issue instructions to all Government departments, both Central and State, as also Public Sector units to take telecom services only from BSNL and MTNL, as has been done in the case of air travel, by Air India only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

Survey of Internet Mobile Association

1731. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey report by Institute for Rural India (2009) carried out last year across seven States revealed that 84 percent of villages in those States were not aware of internet existence;

(b) whether a survey conducted by Internet Mobile Association of India and Indian Market Research Bureau also reveals that only about 13 percent of rural people utilize the internet to know about the latest farming technologies and only 8 percent about the fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government under common service centres and State-wide area network schemes to spread awareness of internet in rural areas in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A survey on "Internet for Rural India 2009" was conducted by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB). The Report was published in August 2010. The survey was conducted by interviewing about 15000 people in seven States viz. Assam, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

As per that report, "In the seven States surveyed, about 84% of the respondents who had not used Internet in the past indicate that they are not aware of it". The report also says that