

- **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

“About 13% of the people use the Internet for knowing more about latest farming techniques and 8% of the people use the Internet to find more about fertilizers and pesticides”.

(c) Under National e-Governance Plan, the Government has sanctioned the scheme to establish 1,00,000 Common Services Centres (CSCs) in rural areas. These CSCs are equipped with Computers, Internet Connectivity and Trained and incentivized manpower. These Centres provide public services along with facilities of Internet and e-mail. The scheme is based on Public Private Partnership model with Government of India providing revenue viability gap funding. As on 31st October, 2010 about 85,000 CSCs have been established. State-wise details are given in Statement (See below).

State Wide Area Networks in all the States/UTs are connecting State/UTs Headquarters with District Headquarter and Block Headquarters. SWAN would provide internet connectivity to all the Government offices.

Statement

State-wise CSC rollout Status (October'10)

Sl.No.	State	Total CSCs	CSC Rolled as on 31st October, 2010
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5452	2135
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	68
3.	Assam	4375	3794
4.	Bihar	8463	6974
5.	Chandigarh	13	13
6.	Chhattisgarh	3385	2464
7.	Delhi	520	520
8.	Goa	160	160
9.	Gujarat	13695	13695
10.	Haryana	1159	1159
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3366	2576
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1109	533
13.	Jharkhand	4562	4556

1	2	3	4
14.	Karnataka	5713	800
15.	Kerala	2234	2234
16.	Madhya Pradesh	9232	8686
17.	Maharashtra	10484	6308
18.	Manipur	399	399
19.	Meghalaya	225	179
20.	Mizoram	136	118
21.	Nagaland	220	70
22.	Orissa	8558	6036
23.	Puducherry	44	44
24.	Rajasthan	6626	2558
25.	Sikkim	45	45
26.	Tamil Nadu	5440	3952
27.	Tripura	145	133
28.	Uttar Pradesh	17909	8136
29.	Uttarakhand	2804	1583
30.	West Bengal	6797	5578
GRAND TOTAL		123470	85506

Zero rental scheme for post paid mobile users

1732. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to withdraw the national roaming charges on mobile phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;
- (c) whether Government also proposes to bring a zero rental scheme for the benefit of post-paid mobile users;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?