

of its towers to other private players on the commercial terms & condition to generate additional incremental revenue. BSNL has so far shared 1072 towers with the private players.

Broadband and mobile phone connectivity

1314. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) how many villages are yet to be connected with broadband connections;
- (b) the number of towers BSNL actually needs and the number at present for the effective communication facility for mobile phone users;
- (c) whether the 2G scam has affected the purchase of equipments needed by BSNL; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Sir, there are 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country (as per 2001 census), out of which 1,69,201 villages have been covered through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) wire-line broadband services as on 30.10.2011.

(b) As on 31.10.2011, BSNL has 87,348 cellular Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in its network. The mobile tower erection and commissioning is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) BSNL purchases mobile telecom equipment to augment its network based on techno-commercial considerations.

Provision and spread of IT in border areas

1315. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the Schemes to encourage tribal students to learn IT;
- (b) whether there is special consideration to spread IT in border areas like Chushul in Ladakh and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (c) how many post offices and educational institutions have been provided with internet facilities by Central Government; and
- (d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Ministries/Departments viz. Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Employment have initiated various Schemes/ Projects to encourage tribal youth students to learn IT is given in Statement-I (See below).

(b) The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, an autonomous body under DIT has set up centres in border states like Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Sikkim to spread IT education.

Under the National e-Governance Programme, nine Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been set up in Leh (Jammu & Kashmir) and six in Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Departmental Post Offices at 12202 locations have been provided with internet connectivity for internal use. The state-wise break-up is given in Statement-II (See below).

A Centrally sponsored scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools of the Ministry of Human Resource Development is implemented through State/UT Governments, which provides for financial assistance of Rs.6.40 lakh per school to State/UT for 10 computers per school, computer infrastructure and internet connectivity. So far 90,235 schools have been covered under this scheme. The state-wise details of schools are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Details of Schemes/Projects to encourage tribal youth students to learn IT

1. Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and IT

(a) IT for Masses programme of DIT

"IT for Masses" is a Plan Scheme of DIT. About 12,000 ST participants have benefited directly from about 23 projects completed under this scheme during 2006-2010

(b) National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (formerly DOEACC Society): An autonomous Scientific Society of DIT

- (i) Three projects in the area of IT Skill development for the disadvantaged segments of the society including SC/ST have been initiated in 2010-11.
- (ii) Capacity Building for improving the IT Literacy and employability of the ST Candidates in IECT Area for 880 ST candidates in Jharkhand.
- (iii) Following special benefits to ST candidates are provided :
 - No tuition fee/exam fee is charged from the candidates in NIELIT's own centres across the country.
 - Scholarship to meritorious students of DOEACC O/A/B/C level courses.
- (iv) Trained about 350 candidates of North-Eastern Region in various IT Software/Hardware/Bio-Informatics courses under the Capacity Building Programme.
- (c) **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (An autonomous Scientific Society of DIT):**
 - (i) IT based Fabric Design CAD Center in Agartala (Tripura), Musolpur (Assam), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Gangtok (Sikkim), Imphal (Manipur), Aizawl (Mizoram) for creative design & development by artisans/weavers.
 - (ii) Economic Activity Training Center for Self Help Groups of North East Region at Namchin (Sikkim) for vocational IT training for Entrepreneurship development.

2. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

ST youth are provided training in IT under two schemes namely 'Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes' and 'Vocational Training in Tribal Areas'. So far 18 Computer Training Centres and 83 Vocational Training Centres have been supported.

3. **Ministry of Labour & Employment**

Directorate General of Employment & Training has made Basic Computer Course (BCC) of NIELIT compulsory for all the trainees of Govt. and Private ITIs across the country.

4. **Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DONER)**

M/o DONER supports and encourages tribal students of North East States to learn IT. Preference in selection of students from remote areas of NE states is also given.

Statement-II

*State-wise break-up of Departmental Post Offices
having the Internet connectivity*

Sl. No.	Name of States	Post Offices having Internet connectivity
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	824
2.	Assam	525
3.	Bihar	291
4.	Chhattisgarh	142
5.	Delhi	245
6.	Gujarat including Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	872
7.	Haryana	278
8.	Himachal Pradesh	256
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	79
10.	Jharkhand	181
11.	Karnataka	840
12.	Kerala including Lakshadweep	1070
13.	Madhya Pradesh	481
14.	Maharashtra including Goa	1342
15.	North East (Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh)	181
16.	Orissa	450
17.	Punjab	431
18.	Rajasthan	329

1	2	3
19.	Tamil Nadu including Puducherry	1448
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1023
21.	Uttarakhand	182
22.	West Bengal including Andaman & Nicobar	732
	Total	12,202

Statement-III

*Details of Schools Approved under ICT in School
Scheme of MHRD during 2005-12*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Schools
1	2	3
1.	A & N Island	54
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11231
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	268
4.	Assam	1881
5.	Bihar	1180
6.	Chandigarh	87
7.	Chhattisgarh	2200
8.	D & N Haveli	26
9.	Daman and Diu	45
10.	Delhi	1110
11.	Goa	662
12.	Gujarat	6380
13.	Haryana	4217

1	2	3
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1246
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	340
16.	Jharkhand	1074
17.	Karnataka	7155
18.	Kerala	4196
19.	Lakshdweep	12
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4550
21.	Maharashtra	8200
22.	Manipur	325
23.	Meghalaya	655
24.	Mizoram	378
25.	Nagaland	566
26.	Orissa	4200
27.	Puducherry	376
28.	Punjab	3564
29.	Rajasthan	6600
30.	Sikkim	151
31.	Tamil Nadu	3266
32.	Tripura	1164
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7308
34.	Uttarakhand	1625
35.	West Bengal	3943
Total		90,235