

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?