

officers of DoT who continued to be on deemed deputation to BSNL and to repatriate them to their parent Department.

Thereafter, to finalize the exercise, four option letters dated 22nd September, 2011 were issued by the Department of Telecommunications calling for option from Group 'A' officers including Indian Telecom Service (ITS) for exercising option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL. Last date for exercising options for officers on deemed deputation was 8th November, 2011. Till 30th November, 2011, 390 Group A officers who were on deemed deputation to BSNL have been repatriated by these organizations to DoT.

(c) and (d) BSNL has posts in Executive and Non-Executive Groups. The requirement of manpower keeps on varying due to fast changing business and technological scenario. BSNL is competent to take decisions regarding recruitment for filling up vacancies in all the grades, excepting Board level, as per its needs.

Extension of Kalka broad gauge line

*342. SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Kalka broad gauge railway line upto Parwanoo; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently, there is no proposal to extend line from Kalka to Parwanoo. However, Kalka-Parwanoo (7 km.) new line was sanctioned in Railway Budget 1997-98 at a cost of ` 26.90 crore. Considering physical and technological constraints and the suggestion of State Government, Kalka-Parwanoo (7 km.) new line project was frozen in March, 2005.

Minimum eligibility conditions for appointment of Lecturers

*343. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passing of National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET), as per UGC's Regulations dated 11 July, 2009, will remain as the minimum eligibility condition for recruitment and appointment of Lecturers in various Universities/colleges/institutions in the country even after awarding of Ph.D. degree;

(b) if so, the fate of those registered candidates who have already obtained Ph.D. degree prior to 11 July, 2009;

(c) whether Government has appointed any Review Committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government so far on the recommendations of the Review Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) As per University Grants Commission (UGC) (Minimum qualifications required for the appointment and Career Advancement of teachers in Universities and Institutions affiliated to it) (3rd Amendment), Regulation 2009, National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) shall remain the minimum eligibility condition for recruitment and appointment of Lecturers in Universities/Colleges/Institutions, provided that candidates, who are or have been awarded Ph.D Degree in compliance of the University Grants Commission (minimum standards and procedure for award of Ph.D. Degree), Regulation 2009, shall be exempted from the requirement of the minimum eligibility condition of NET/SLET for recruitment and appointment of Assistant Professor or equivalent positions in Universities/Colleges/Institutions.

(b) UGC has issued instructions in August, 2009, keeping in view the public interest, that, as an *ad-hoc* measure, the concerned Universities, colleges and institutions may decide at their level, as to whether the Degree of Ph.D. awarded to various candidates (prior to 11th July, 2009) was in compliance to the provisions of University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulation 2009, so as to exempt them from requirement of NET/SLET.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Certification of telecom towers

*344. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been increasing concerns over emissions by telecom towers and their adverse implications on people's health;

(b) whether despite missing several deadlines, telecom companies have still not been able to certify over one lakh telecom towers on radiation emission levels; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, Government of India has adopted the basic restriction and limiting reference levels of Electromagnetic radiation from Mobile towers prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). *Vide* letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8th April, 2010, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed all the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees for compliance of the reference limits/levels prescribed by ICNIRP by way of self certification of their Base Transmitting Station (BTS) for meeting the EMF radiations norms.