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Installation of tower and cables in Chhattisgarh

†1454. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 500 equipment towers are pending for installation in Chhattisgarh for quite some time and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether towers have been erected in various places in Chhattisgarh but these are not being utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cable wires at various places in Chhattisgarh are cut and it has become a daily routine and the police do not pay any heed to it and preventive actions are as good as nothing; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons for Government not being aware of such occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) No Sir, only 178 towers are pending for installation of equipment in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Some of the towers are not being utilized due to non-availability of equipments. BSNL has earmarked 1,00,000 lines of mobile capacity for expansion in Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle in its mobile expansion plan.

(d) and (e) The under ground Cables and Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) get cut due to road widening, construction of new roads/drainage systems by local bodies and Public Works Department (PWD). For early restoration and to minimize the cable cuts, these cases are taken up by BSNL with the concerned local authorities.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in Jharkhand and Bihar

†1455. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years and the current year, district-wise;

- (b) whether this scheme has been successful in rural areas of the country;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make it successful and to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras (PSSKs) under the 'Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana' Scheme are opened at the Gram Panchayat Headquarters (which are without Post Offices) to provide basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. This scheme is being implemented by Gram Panchayats through agents appointed by them (Gram Panchayats) with the written consent of the concerned Superintendent/Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. This is also subject to receipt of applications from the heads of the Gram Panchayats. District-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras functional during the last three years and the current year (upto July, 2012) in Jharkhand and Bihar are given in Statement-I and II respectively.

[†]Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.