

(c) if so, the reasons for retaining ₹ 1.97 lakh by the Company from its resident ex-employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 1.97 lakh has been retained by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) from ex-employees residing at Durgapur Township as Security Money for a 600 sq. feet Flat. In the valuation carried out by M/s Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) in year 2003, the value of flat was 0.97 lakhs. The company had taken into account the land cost, cost of development and cost of associated land along with the cost of the building for fixing the security money in respect of each type of quarter in its townships.

#### Internet facility for all

†\*318. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today, people's access to internet is very limited in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has failed to achieve its target of providing internet facility to all the people by 2012;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is formulating any plan to provide internet facility at cheaper rate to the people of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The number of internet subscribers as reported by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for last three years are as follows:

Sl.No.	Period	Number of Internet Subscribers (in millions)
1.	31st March, 2010	16.18
2.	31st March, 2011	19.67
3.	31st March, 2012	22.86

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- The target for Internet and Broadband subscribers in the country as given in Broadband Policy 2004 and achievements are as follows:

Year Ending	Internet Subscribers		Broadband	
	Target	Achievement (Wireline subscribers)	Target	Achievement (Wireline subscribers)
2005	6 million	6.7 million	3 million	0.903 million
2007	18 million	10.36 million	9 million	3.13 million
2010	40 million	18.69 million	20 million	10.99 million

- The main impediments which are hindering the growth of internet/broadband are as under:
  - (i) Lack of interest in private operators, for broadband network expansion in rural areas, being non-remunerative
  - (ii) Difficulty in laying of OFC network due to issues related to right of way clearances and high cost of right of way charges
  - (iii) High backhaul cost
  - (iv) Low PC penetration
  - (v) High cost of Customer Premises Equipment (CPEs)
  - (vi) Low literacy levels
  - (vii) Lack of local content
  - (viii) Poor power supply

(d) and (e) The Government has approved a scheme for creation of a National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) on 25.10.2011 for providing Broadband connectivity to 2,47,864 Village Panchayats. The project will be funded by USOF and initial estimated cost of project is Rs.20,000 crore. The project is proposed to be completed in 2 years.

NOFN project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *i.e.* Bharat

Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), a company incorporated under Indian Companies Act 1956 fully owned by Central Government, with equity participation from Government, BSNL, RailTel and Powergrid. The Company has been incorporated on 25.2.2012 for this purpose

The optical fibre has predominantly reached State capitals, districts and blocks, at present. National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project is planned to connect the 2,47,864 Gram Panchayats in the country through optical fibre utilizing existing fibres of PSUs viz. BSNL, RailTel and Power Grid and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks.

#### **Operating Kalindi Express during winter season**

\*319. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalindi Express (Train No. 14724) is cancelled during winter season every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the only train which connects Bilhaur, Kannauj, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri with Delhi and in the absence of this train, the commuters of these areas are put to a lot of hardships; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Railways to solve this problem permanently?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 14723/14724 Kanpur Central-Bhiwani Kalindi Express provides connection for Delhi to the passengers of Bilhaur, Kannauj, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri, etc. For the convenience of the passengers, this train was not fully cancelled and was operated as a tri-weekly service instead of a daily service between 01.12.2011 and 31.01.2012 during the last winter season of 2011-12 due to foggy condition. During the current winter season Kalindi Express has not been cancelled.

#### **Food production growth rate**

\*320. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: