

(d) the number of village panchayats in West Bengal which have already been provided with broadband connectivity under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country are planned to be covered under the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project.

(c) Rs. 405 Crore has been released to Bharat Broadband Network limited (BBNL) and BBNL has utilized Rs. 213.62 crore till March, 2013.

(d) The consent of State Government of West Bengal for signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central Government, Government of West Bengal and Bharat Broadband Network Limited has yet not been received for Right of Way to lay OFC Network, in the absence of which the project cannot be started.

#### **Removing roaming call charges**

4098. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received recommendations from TRAI to remove roaming call charges; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken on the recommendations and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) No, Sir. Government has not received recommendations from TRAI to remove roaming call charges.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Recommendations of Telecom Commission on spectrum**

4099. SHRI A.A. JINNAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that EGoM has overruled the recommendations of Telecom Commission to suit the interest of certain operators and has thereby decided to charge excess spectrum prospectively from the earlier decision of Telecom Commission to charge retrospectively;