

(a) whether contribution of internet economy to GDP would grow to \$ 100 billion by 2015; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Government has not conducted any study in this regard. However, a study report "Impact of Internet on the Indian Economy" by a private global consultancy firm projects that Internet economy contribution to India's GDP would grow to \$100 billion by 2015 from the current \$30 billion. India's Internet Economy will grow at 23% by 2016 and would contribute 5.6% to GDP and will largely be driven by consumers followed by exports. This study has not been verified by Government.

Financial crisis in telecom sector

2232. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is negative growth prevailing in the Telecom sector due to acute financial pressure and crippling debts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to boost the growth in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Sir, the information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Ranking of India in food security index

2233. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks far below many countries in the Food Security Index;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to provide food to the needy and the poor and the details thereof?