

(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Global Food Security Index(GFSI), 2013 brought out by News Magazine "The Economist" available in public domain, ranks India 70 with a score of 44.4 out of 107 countries. The Index gives scores ranging from 0-100, where 100 is most favourable.

(b) The Global Food Security Index(GFSI) assesses food security across three criteria: affordability, availability and quality and safety. The report does not provide data/ranks of various countries on the specific dimensions but only on the composite index. The report also does not give reasons of present ranking of India in the Food Security Index. Moreover, methods used for data gathering, its analysis and forecasting are not test checked/validated by Government of India or any UN agencies.

(c) The Government of India has accorded high priority to ensure food security in the country. With a view to specially target poor sections of society, under the Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS), allocation of foodgrains (rice and wheat) are made to States and Union Territories(UTs) at subsidized prices for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line(BPL) families which includes 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) families. Government also implements other welfare schemes like Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme for pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) through Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme for primary and upper primary children through Ministry of Human Resource Development, Annapurna Scheme for the senior citizens, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, Emergency Feeding Programme etc. to ensure further food and nutrition security in the country.

To further ensure food security in the country, Government has promulgated National Food Security Ordinance, 2013, on 5.7.2013 to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices for people to live a life with dignity. The Ordinance entitles upto 75% of rural and upto 50% of urban population to receive 5 kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs.3/- per

kg. for rice, Re.2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs.1/- per kg. for coarse grains under TPDS. The Ordinance also contains provisions for nutritional support to women and children and specifically pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Capacities under PEG Scheme

2234. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of capacities allotted under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) scheme in Andhra Pradesh, during the last two years, centre-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of rates approved/finalized against tenders for private investors, SWCs and CWCs;
- (c) the details of capacity already hired by FCI under PEG scheme; and
- (d) the extent to which PEG helps in reducing the wastage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Centre-wise, year-wise details of capacities allotted under PEG Scheme in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) Details of rates approved/finalized against tenders for private investors as on 30.06.2013 are given in Statement-II (*See below*). In addition to this, a capacity of 0.30 lakh MT and 0.55 lakh MT has been allotted to CWC and SWCs respectively for construction of godowns on the rate payable to CWC on guarantee basis.

(c) Details of capacity hired by FCI under PEG Scheme as on 31.07.2013 is given in Statement-III (*See below*).

(d) PEG Scheme has been devised in a manner to prevent unscientific storage of foodgrains. It is expected that after construction of required capacities under PEG Scheme, stock would not be required to be stored in the open. For this purpose, storage requirement of a State has been assessed keeping in view different requirements of consuming and procuring regions.