

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to provide broadband connectivity through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to all the Gram Panchayats in the country (approximately 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats) at an estimated cost of ₹ 20,100 crore by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second) bandwidth would be made available at each Gram Panchayat (GP) to be used by all the service providers on non-discriminatory basis. Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL), a Central Public Sector Undertaking Unit (CPSU) has been created to execute the project. Work is being implemented by BBNL through 3 CPSUs viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

NOFN is expected to provide the basic infrastructure for facilitating provision of broadband services in rural areas by telecom service operators. The project to connect all the Gram Panchayats with respective blocks through OFC is envisaged to be completed in a phased manner by December, 2016.

The roll out of services using 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum which was put to auction in 2010 would also lead to expansion of broadband facilities in the country.

India Post to enter into e-commerce

1455. SHRI AVINASH PANDE:

SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make India Post to enter into e-commerce business, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether this proposal will generate more employment in postal department and revenue thereby, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Department of Posts provides its existing products and services like Speed Post, Express Parcel/Business Parcel etc. to all customers including e-commerce business. There is also a web based

e-Post Office at www.epostoffice.gov.in where sale of philatelic stamps, payment of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) premium and online generation of Electronic Indian Postal Order (eIPO) is provided. The Department has entered into an agreement with e-commerce company for online sale of philatelic products.

Department of Posts makes continuous efforts to generate more business from the market including the e-commerce segment with its standard procedures, existing infrastructure and resources.

Hacking incidents of Government websites

1456. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hacking incidents occurred to Government websites during last three years;

(b) whether adequate security software system is loaded for anti-hacking, keeping in view the sensitive nature of information on Government websites;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any special cell is set up to track and restore the website, in case of hacking by outsiders, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per the information tracked and reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) a total number of 308, 371, 189 and 153 Government websites were hacked by various attackers during the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (up to October).

(b) and (c) The Government websites host information for public dissemination. No sensitive information is hosted on Government websites. As per the guidelines of the Government, the Computer systems with sensitive information are isolated from Internet. The Government websites are adequately safeguarded by loading anti-hacking security software and installing security control devices like Network and Web Application Firewalls (WAF), Intrusion Prevention System (IPS), Anti-virus software etc. In addition, Government has also taken other measures to secure the websites from hacking, these include: