

- (i) All Central Government Ministries/Departments and State/Union Territory Governments have been advised to conduct security auditing of entire Information Technology infrastructure. All the new Government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications is to be conducted on a regular basis after hosting also. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) provides necessary expertise to audit IT infrastructure of critical and other ICT sectors.
 - (ii) It has been mandated that all Government websites are to be hosted on infrastructure of National Informatics Centre (NIC), Education and Research Network (ERNET) or any other secure infrastructure service provider in the country.
 - (iii) National Informatics Centre (NIC) which hosts the Government websites is continuously engaged in upgrading and improving the security posture of its hosting infrastructure.
 - (iv) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been directed not to host websites, which are not audited with respect to cyber security.
 - (v) All major websites are being monitored regularly to detect malicious activities.
 - (vi) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has published guidelines for securing the websites, which are available on its website (www.cert-in.org.in), CERT-In also conducts regular training programmes to make the system administrators aware about secure hosting of the websites.
- (d) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) tracks the hacking of websites on 24x7 basis and immediately alerts the concerned website owners to restore the hacked websites and taking further actions to secure the websites.

Opening of Post Office at Faridabad

†1457. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the time by which a Post Office and Speed Post centre will be opened for the convenience of residents of sectors 76, 86, 87, 88 and 89 in Faridabad; and

(b) whether any proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Department has received a proposal for opening of new post office in the area known as "Greater Faridabad" for the convenience of residents of sectors 76, 86, 87, 88 and 89. The same is currently under examination. If it is found feasible and justified as per departmental norms for opening of new post offices, it will be opened within the current financial year *i.e.* 2014-15. The Speed Post facility will be provided if the above Post Office is opened. Presently, the Speed Post facility in the areas of Sector 76 is being provided through Ballabgarh Mukhya Dak Ghar (MDG) and Sectors 86, 87 and 89 are being provided through Sector 16 A Post Office.

Connecting panchayats with internet facility

1458. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a project for connecting all Panchayats in the country with internet facility, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the allocation of funds made for this purpose and the quantum of funds released so far; and

(c) the status of the work taken up so far and the estimated time to be taken for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government approved National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project on 25.10.2011 to provide broadband connectivity through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to all the Gram Panchayats in the country (approx. 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats) at an estimated cost of about ₹ 20,100 crore by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps (mega bits per second) bandwidth would be made available at each Gram Panchayat (GP) to be used by all categories of service providers including Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on non-discriminatory basis.

Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), has been created on 25.02.2012 for execution of the NOFN project.