

- Government has assigned the work of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas through BSNL at an estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crores.
- Government has assigned the work of providing mobile connectivity to uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam to BSNL on nomination basis at an estimated cost of ₹ 1975.38 crores.

(c) BSNL has informed that out of total 3885 towers, 221 towers in Rajasthan are non-functional of which 94 towers were installed under Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme. The main reason is non availability of Base Transceivers Stations (BTS) equipment as BSNL had been unable to procure mobile equipment for expansion of its network over the period 2009-2013 during Phase V and VI of mobile network expansion projects. Under its Phase VII expansion project BSNL has planned 1754 new towers in Rajasthan. Out of which 803 towers have been commissioned.

(d) The non-functional towers shall be utilized by installation of BTSs in a phased manner by BSNL under its Phase VII expansion project after assessment of techno-commercial feasibility by June, 2015.

BSNL has initiated following steps for utilization of towers including non-functional towers in the country including the State of Rajasthan.

- Commissioning BSNL equipment as per plan & availability of equipment and other resources.
- Allowing sharing of BSNL towers to other operators on external tenancies as a tool for better financial management & improved operations.

#### **Telecom equipment testing**

\*268.SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to make it mandatory for testing of all telecom equipments in the country from the next year, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above steps are being initiated for checking cyber attacks and spying, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the modern age telecom equipments are prone to spyware/malwares etc., if attempted by the outfits, anti-social/anti-national activists or unfriendly country. These Trojans, spyware /malware etc. are the potential threats, if embedded in any of the telecom network elements by vendor or any other third party source, which may damage the concerned network element causing disruption in services, infecting other network elements or leakage of information to unintended user.

In order to address the issue, Government has issued the amendment to various telecom licenses (*i.e.* Access Services, National Long Distance and International Long Distance Services licenses on 31.05.2011 and Internet Service Providers & VSAT service providers on 03.06.2011) and has included the same provisions in the subsequent Universal Licenses, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and Telecom Industry, wherein it is mandated that Licensee shall induct only those network elements into his network, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security standards by any International Agency/Laboratory of the respective standards upto 31st March, 2015. It has been mandated to get security testing and certification of telecom equipments done from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India from 1st April, 2015.

#### **Introduction of bullet trains and semi-high speed trains**

\*269.SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the announcement of introducing bullet trains and semi-high speed trains in the country is a fresh initiative of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed road map for the purpose; and
- (c) the action taken in the past for introduction of high speed trains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) So far only Prefeasibility studies for introduction for High Speed Rail have been conducted / in progress for several sections. But, decision regarding Bullet trains has been announced in Budget 2014-15 for starting with an already identified Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector, where a number of studies have been done.

Further, an ambitious plan to have a Diamond Quadrilateral Network of High Speed Rail has been embarked upon, as announced in Budget 2014-15.