

2. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), in its letter, addressed to Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, dated 11.11.2014, has stated that:
 - (i) Non-availability of sufficient spectrum in the forthcoming auction is a matter of deep concern and auction should be held only once adequate spectrum is made available.
 - (ii) Availability of spectrum has to be ensured in the globally harmonized bands 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz.
 - (iii) The current spectrum holdings needs to be made contiguous through re-arrangement amongst telecom operators and Government users.
 - (iv) A clear and transparent spectrum roadmap should be made available.
3. Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI), in its letter, dated 17.11.2014, has stated that:
 - (i) Spectrum requirement of 300 MHz and 200 MHz by 2016 and 2020 respectively should be provided as scheduled in the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012.
 - (ii) Auctions may be scheduled only after resolving the supply side economics of the spectrum for all the relevant bands to match the demand side view of the Digital India, Ubiquitous Access of Broadband and Internet Access to citizens at affordable level.
 - (iii) The total quantum as per the International harmonization norms (*i.e.* 25 MHz, 75 MHz and 60 MHz), in 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz band respectively, should be made available for commercial use before holding a fresh round of auction.
 - (iv) AUSPI has been seeking 800 MHz auction as long overdue and its reserve price requires review immediately to facilitate its auction.
 - (v) Any increase in reserve price of 900 MHz and 1800 MHz will be anti to Government Vision of Digital India.

(c) As per Result Framework Document (RFD) of the Department, the spectrum auction is to be completed by March, 2015.

Affordable broadband internet facility across the country

677. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has fixed any criteria for selection of villages under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN);

- (b) the phases in which NOFN is being implemented, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to make affordable broadband internet facilities available in various parts of the country; and
- (d) whether Government has adopted any time-bound strategy for providing broadband internet to all, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) All Gram Panchayats in the country are to be connected through optical fibre for broadband connectivity in a phased manner.

(b) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is being implemented in three phases as follows:

Phase I	50,000 Gram Panchayats	by 31.03.2015
Phase II	Another 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats	by 31.03.2016
Phase III	Remaining 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats	by 31.12.2016

(c) and (d) NOFN is expected to provide the basic infrastructure for facilitating provision of broadband services in rural areas by telecom service operators. 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.

Possibility of disruption of telecom services

678. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom services in several metros, including Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata could be potentially disrupted this winter as Government has not been able to sort out differences between telecom and defence departments;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and whether the Ministry has sorted out differences with Ministry of Defence to allot airwaves in the 1800 MHz band to the mobile operators; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.