

- (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.