

Offices of Internet Service Providers in the country

694. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who have set up offices in the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to make it obligatory for all ISPs to set up offices in the country; and

(c) whether such obligation will help in effective filtering in the dissemination of pornography and religious hate content on the websites?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, only a company registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 is eligible for the licence required to become an Internet Service Provider in the country.

(c) Do not arise in view of above.

Customs duty on specified telecom products

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

(a) whether Government has decided to impose 10 per cent customs duty on specified telecom products with a view to give boost to domestic manufacturers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the move is being opposed and Government has received requests not to impose the said duty;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to safeguard the interests of domestic manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has imposed basic custom duty of 10% in the Union budget of 2014-2015 on the following telecommunication products:

- (i) Soft switches and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment, namely, VoIP phones, media gateways, gateway controllers and session border controllers;

- (ii) Optical transport equipments, combination of one or more of Packet Optical Transport Product or Switch (POTP or POTS), Optical Transport Network (OTN) products, and IP Radios;
- (iii) Carrier Ethernet Switch, Packet Transport Node (PTN) products, Multiprotocol Label Switching-Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) products;
- (iv) Multiple Input/ Multiple Output (MIMO) and Long Term Evolution (LTE) Products.

(b) and (c) The move has been largely supported by various industry associations. However, the Government has also received representations from some quarters for the review of its decision on the ground that it would push up the cost of new telecom equipment and would also distort the level playing field conditions between 2G, 3G and 4G operators.

(d) The Government has rejected the representation and imposed 10% BCD on items as mentioned above to safeguard the interests of domestic manufacturers.

Sugar mills under co-operative sector in Karnataka

696. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sugar mills in the country, the details thereof, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total number of sugar mills under co-operative sector in Karnataka;

(c) whether any of these co-operative sugar mills is leased out to private sector, if so, the details thereof, mill-wise with reasons therefor; and

(d) whether this practice is in accordance with the principles of cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE) :

(a) Details showing state-wise and sector-wise number of sugar mills in the country as on 30.09.2014 are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) There are 25 sugar mills under co-operative sector in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Karnataka has informed that 7 co-operative sugar mills have been leased out to private entrepreneurs. The mill-wise details are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

The State Government of Karnataka has decided to lease out the sick and financially