

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, with the increase in the number of mobile phones, Internet and related services, there is a rise in the number of cybercrimes/financial frauds. The trend in increase of cyber incidents in India is similar to worldwide trend.

(b) and (c) No specific decision has been taken to monitor all social networking sites. However, social networking sites are monitored by the security agencies in order to check/remove all objectionable contents from the websites in consultation with Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in accordance with the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000.

Bringing down the STD call rates

2621. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has proposed to bring down the STD call rates to that of local calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the scheme to bring down the rate of STD calls would come into force; and

(d) by when the private sector service providers are expected to implement the decision and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Presently, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has no such proposal. As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for access service (including Subscriber's Trunk Dialing tariff) is under forbearance except for rural wire line services and national roaming services. The telecom service providers have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc.

Embezzlement of funds in post offices

†2622. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of embezzlement of funds in many post offices have come to light;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details along with names of the post offices and the quantum of funds embezzled therein during the last three years;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officials/officers involved in embezzlement, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the amount embezzled by the officials/officers of the post offices will be returned to the investors along with the details therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There are 1,54,856 Post Offices in the country. Cases of embezzlement have come to notice in 2,551 Post Offices in the last three years.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected/compiled. The same will be put up on the table of the House later.

Unsatisfactory telecommunication services in the country

2623. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that telecommunication services in the country as a whole are far from satisfactory;

(b) whether Government has a time-bound plan to improve the quality of services;

(c) whether BSNL/MTNL units in most States are making losses due to poor services; and

(d) whether Government investments in them and their management will be improved with the above objective?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performances of all service providers against the Quality of Services (QoS) benchmarks as prescribed by TRAI through quarterly performance monitoring reports received from service providers. As per TRAI Quality of Services (QoS)'s Performance Monitoring Reports for quarter ending December, 2014, all the service providers are, in general, meeting the benchmarks prescribed for all the quality of service parameters in terms of 2G and 3G services, 3G Data Services, Basic Service (Wireline), Broadband Services (Wireline). However, non-compliance in respect benchmark for network related parameters has been observed in Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, North East, Odisha, West Bengal and Kolkata service areas.