

Presently, the customers of MTNL 3G network are provided upload speed upto 384 Kbps and download speed upto 3.6 Mbps in Delhi and Mumbai.

MTNL has reported that it has initiated the process of upgradation / expansion of its mobile network ( 3G) by taking up the following projects:

- (i) 3G Network Upgradation: The present HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) enabled 3G network supporting download speeds up to 3.6 Mbps and uploads speed upto 384 Kbps is being upgraded to HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Access) supporting download speed upto 21.1 Mbps and upload speed upto 5.76 Mbps. For meeting the enhanced Data carrying requirement of 3G network, packet core capacity will be expanded to 10 Gbps and Microwave backhaul will be augmented / expanded through deployment of 100 / 200 Mbps (upgradable to 400 Mbps) Hybrid Microwave systems.
- (ii) Expansion of GSM / 3G RF (Radio Frequency) Network: For improving the network coverage MTNL will be adding 1080 Node-Bs (3G)& 800 BTSs (2G) in Delhi and 1080 Nodes-Bs (3G)& 566 BTSs (2G) in Mumbai.

#### **Linking Aadhaar card number with SIM connections**

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

(a) whether Government is considering to make it mandatory to link mobile SIM connections with Aadhaar card number to keep a check on SIM users and curb the misuse of mobile phones for any terrorist act, extortion or any other offence, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any fresh guidelines in this regard have been issued to the mobile operators in the country; and

(c) by when all mobile numbers would be linked with Aadhaar card numbers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Department of Telecommunications has issued instructions on 16.10.2014 & 29.12.2014 to the Telecom Service Providers for collecting 'Aadhaar' numbers alongwith mobile 'Customer Acquisition Form' and storing the same in the database alongwith other data by telecom service operators. These instructions have come into operation with immediate effect and are applicable for SIM connections to be sold after the issuance of instructions.