

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted a sample survey on 'Social Consumption: Education' during January, 2014 - June, 2014. Survey results showed that 16.10% of the Indian households in rural areas, with at least one member of age 14 years and above, had access to internet facility.

(b) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth was to be provided in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including internet Service Providers. As on 02.08.2015, OFC laying in 24,156 Gram Panchayats are completed.

In order to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of National Optical Fibre Network, Government of India constituted a Committee on 14th January, 2015. The Committee submitted its report on 31st March, 2015. The Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended that the project be renamed as BharatNet to reflect the national aspiration to establish a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to realize the vision of Digital India, in partnership with the States and the private sector.

(c) National Digital Literacy Mission with the objective to make 10 lakh persons digitally literate throughout the country was approved by the Government on 04.03.2014. Subsequently, an expanded scheme under Digital India Programme namely 'Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' has been approved by the Government on 09.12.2014 with the objective to make additional 42.5 lakh persons digitally literate in a period of four years. Both these schemes are being implemented concurrently. Out of the total target of 52.50 lakh persons to be trained under both the schemes, 5 Lakh candidates are to be trained by industry, Non-Governmental Organisations and others through their own resources/under Corporate Social Responsibility and training of remaining 47.50 lakh candidates would be supported by Government. The total outlay of both the schemes is ₹ 477.02 crore with a grant-in-aid of ₹ 444.56 crore. At present 7,22,156 candidates are enrolled out of which 4,78,177 candidates have been trained and 1,25,705 candidates have been certified by 735 training partners.

4G facilities by MTNL/BSNL

2147. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 4G facilities will be provided by BSNL and MTNL on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if not, by when it will be launched by MTNL/BSNL in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) were allotted Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) frequency spectrum the said frequency range may be used to provide 4G services in future. BSNL has not launched 4G services anywhere in India. MTNL has surrendered BWA spectrum in both its service areas *i.e.*, Mumbai and Delhi.

The techno-commercial feasibility of launching LTE (Long Term Evolution)/4G services in selective cities is being studied by BSNL.

**Complaints regarding local and STD telephone services
in Maharashtra**

†2148. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the local and STD telephone services are not working properly in Maharashtra, especially in the underdeveloped districts;
- (b) whether the local telecom officers have received complaints in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have reported that local and STD services are functioning satisfactorily in Maharashtra. However, some instances of disruption of services due to cable breakdown, power failure and transmission-media failure have come to notice, which are attended promptly.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of service providers against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmark parameters through the standards of QoS for Basic Service (wireline). TRAI has reported that as per the performance monitoring report for the quarter ending March, 2015 for basic (wireline)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.