

₹ 10,730.42 crores in 2013-14 to ₹11,635.98 crores in 2014-15. This is indicative of the fact that the Department is attracting more and more customers.

Absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Uttarakhand

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is unrest among public due to absence of BSNL mobile towers in rural areas of Pithoragarh, Champawat, Bageshwar, Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether Government has received requests to install BSNL mobile towers in the above areas;

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon;

(d) if not, whether Government considers it proper to provide mobile facility in above mentioned places; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in installing mobile towers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that the requests received for installation of new Base Transceiver Stations (BTSS) are examined and provided keeping in view the techno-commercial feasibility. Presently, BSNL has installed 64 BTSS in Pithoragarh, 28 in Champawat, 33 in Bageshwar, 49 in Chamoli and 46 BTSS in Uttarkashi to provide mobile services in these areas. Due to hilly terrain & non feasible areas, mobile services may not be available in all border areas. However, BSNL is taking action for installation of additional mobile towers on outposts of paramilitary forces (Central Armed Police Forces) in all border states including Uttarakhand which will further improve the coverage in these areas.

**Internet speed provisioned for cities and Panchayats under
Digital India campaign**

†697. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the download/upload speed in mbps to be offered by Government for free wi-fi, broadband in order to connect 2500 cities and 2.5 lakh Panchayats under the 'Digital India' campaign in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.