

- (b) the average speed presently offered under all types of internet data plans; and
- (c) whether it is being considered to reduce the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project was planned, in 2011, to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and Rail Tel and laying incremental fibre wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has 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.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing backhaul bandwidth up to 10 Mbps at Wi-Fi Hotspots. Download/ upload speed at any point of time at Wi-Fi Hotspots depends on the number of concurrent users at that particular time in that Wi-Fi hotspot coverage area.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), in their respective licensed service areas, are offering various broadband plans with speed ranging from 2 Mbps to 100 Mbps.

(b) Average speed offered under an internet data plan depends upon the speed specified under the respective data plan.

(c) There is no plan to reduce the broadband speed offered by BSNL and MTNL.

Setting up and operationalization of CMS

698. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the Central Monitoring System (CMS) set up by Government for lawful interception and monitoring of communications;

(b) the details and salient features of the system, including the nodal agency implementing CMS;

(c) the total expenditure approved and incurred by Government for setting up of CMS;

(d) whether it is presently operational, if so, in which parts of country; and

(e) if not, the time-frame within which setting up and operationalization of CMS across the country is expected to be complete?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Sir, Government has decided to set up the Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) to automate the process of Lawful Interception & Monitoring of telecommunications. Technology development and Pilot trials have been completed.

(b) The execution of the CMS project has been entrusted with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT). The envisaged salient features of CMS are as follows:

(i) Electronic Provisioning of target number by a Government agency without any manual intervention from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) on a secured network, thus enhancing the secrecy level and quick provisioning of target.

(ii) Central and Regional Centres which will help Central and State level Law Enforcement Agencies in Interception and Monitoring in serious desirable cases of National Security and allied matters.

(iii) Research and Development (R&D) in related fields for continuous up gradation of the CMS.

(c) Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the project of CMS with Government funding of ₹ 400 Crores out of which an expenditure of ₹ 213 crore (Approx.) been incurred.

(d) and (e) The Centralised Monitoring System is anticipated to be progressively operationalised from the end of the current financial year.

Making Aadhar Card mandatory for Digital India Programme schemes

699. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made Aadhaar Card mandatory for the schemes under Digital India Programme;

(b) if so, the details of all such schemes and benefits where this is mandatory;

(c) whether concern has been raised regarding storage of Aadhaar Card data;