

these options. On the basis of the comments received from the stakeholders and further analysis thereof, TRAI issued the Telecom Consumer Protection (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2015 dated 16.10.2015 regarding relief to the consumers for call drops.

(c) Based on data of the TSPs, TRAI has conducted a detailed analysis of the call data and call drops data. It is observed that the total financial implication on the TSPs is likely to be not more than ₹ 200 crore per quarter, which is less than 1% of the total revenue of the TSPs. However, as per the Regulations, there is a ceiling of on relief of ₹ 3 per subscriber per day; thus, the likely financial implications would be even less than ₹ 200 crore per quarter.

#### **Project Loon**

†1506. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are technical glitches in according approved to 'Project Loon', if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, by when internet access will be made available through 'Project Loon' and the amount of money subscribers will have to pay for such facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed frequency band to be used in the Loon project of Google is being used for cellular operation in India and it will lead to interference with cellular transmissions.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **4G services by BSNL**

1507. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL plans to launch 4G services on 2600 MHz band in a couple of cities by March-end, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL has taken various customer-centric initiatives, such as free night calling, free roaming and is providing a minimum broadband speed of 2 Mbps to build trust, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that presently there is no plan to start 4G services.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) BSNL is taking several steps to enhance revenues through investments to strengthen its network and focus on customer care and service delivery to improve quality of service. These includes:-

- BSNL has introduced free roaming (*i.e.* free incoming voice call facility) to its GSM (Global System of Mobile communication) subscribers while in National roaming for a period of one year w.e.f. 15.6.2015.
- BSNL has upgraded the bandwidth under all wireline Broadband plans of 512 Kbps/1Mbps to 2 Mbps speed with fair usages policy (FUP) w.e.f. 1.10.2015 without additional cost to the customers.
- BSNL has introduced free night calling between 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. for its landline customers.

#### **Profit and investment by BSNL**

1508. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has reported an operating profit of ₹ 672 crore in 2014-15;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL aims to achieve a net profit by 2018-19; and

(c) whether BSNL will invest ₹ 7700 crore in the current financial year to expand network, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir, BSNL has reported an operating profit of Rs.672 crores in the year 2014-15.

(b) Yes Sir, BSNL aims to achieve a net profit by 2018-19.

(c) BSNL has planned a capital budget outlay of ₹ 7,796 crores for the year 2015-16 (Budgeted Estimates). The details of capital investment plan for the year 2015-16 are given in the Statement.