

Build-Own-Operate-Transfer Model for Bharat Net

2313. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom regulator, TRAI, has suggested Build-Own-Operate Transfer (BOOT) model in addition to the three models proposed by the Telecom Department for implementing Bharat Net, which envisages broadband connectivity for 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats under the Digital India initiative, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the project Bharat Net plans to create a digital network by 2017 for providing affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps to all rural households and institutions, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on 17th November, 2015 to explore execution model based on Build-Own-Operate and Transfer (BOOT). The objective of this Consultation Paper is to discuss strategies to find best model of implementation of Bharat Net.

(b) Bharat Net intends to realise the vision of Digital India, by providing a communication highway in the form of Broadband infrastructure from the District level to the Gram Panchayats (GPs). The objective of the project is to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and higher capacity upto 100 Mbps on demand to all institutions in rural areas, through creation of a highly scalable network accessible on a non-discriminatory basis.

The Committee constituted to review the strategy and approach towards speedy implementation of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), in its report submitted on 31st March, 2015, has suggested a revised timeline for completion of the project by December 2017 which is under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken soon in the matter.

Services of BSNL

†2314. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nowadays, the consumers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are fed up with its services; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government for redressal of their problems?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.