

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the future potential of it;
- (c) whether Government has entered into agreements with private organizations or has plans to do so for the utilisation of this spectrum, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to link this TV white space with the Digital India initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There exists unused TV spectrum in the 470-698 MHz frequency band currently used by Doordarshan for terrestrial television broadcast in the country.

(b) It has been decided that part of the spectrum in the band 470-698 MHz, after coordination with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will be put to use for International Mobile Telephony (IMT) services, when ecosystem for IMT services is developed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Steps taken by Government to reduce call drops

597. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;
- (b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;
- (d) whether Government has allowed installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and
- (e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), through agencies appointed by it, has conducted Independent Drive Tests of mobile networks in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmedabad during May-June 2016. There is no plan to carry out tests on a pan-India basis. However, TRAI through agencies appointed by it, shall carry out similar Independent Drive Tests, in select cities throughout the country and publish results on its website *www.trai.gov.in* from time to time.

(c) TRAI has been pursuing with service providers for improving Quality of Service and in this regard regular interactions are held with the service providers. TRAI has also engaged independent agencies for auditing and assessing the quality of service and surveys are being done regularly through independent agencies to assess the customer perception of service. The results of the audit and assessment of quality of service and surveys are published for the information of stakeholders, which also force the service providers to improve the quality of service. Wherever the quality of service benchmarks are not met, TRAI has also been imposing financial disincentives on service providers, for failure to comply with the benchmarks, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Urban Development has agreed to permit installation of mobile towers/in-building solutions in the Government buildings under their control subject to structural safety and payment of appropriate Licence fee by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Such mobile towers/in-building solution shall be a shared facility for all TSPs. As on 15th July 2016, allotments for installation of 18 towers in Delhi have been processed and lead operators have been asked to install such towers. In addition, two mobile BTSs and one pole mounted BTS have been installed in Parliament House and 06 mobile BTSs have also been installed in the Lutyens Zone, Delhi (New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)'s jurisdiction), which are shared by multiple operators.

Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks

598. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gramin Dak Sevaks proposed to be recruited in Jharkhand and in the country during the financial year 2016-17;

(b) the action being taken against agents who are allegedly collecting large sums of money from people with the promise of facilitating appointments as Gramin Dak Sevaks in Jharkhand; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure a transparent and non-discretionary system of recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Circle-wise requisite information is given in the Statement (*See below*). However, 391 Gramin Dak Sevaks are proposed to be recruited in Jharkhand, and 31361 Gramin Dak Sevaks, in total, in the country during Financial Year 2016-2017.