

(c) whether Government is not satisfied with the audit by CAG and has directed to get the audit done by other institution or group, if so, the details of reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) CAG has conducted the audit of six telecom companies for financial year 2006-07 to 2009-10. CAG has submitted its report No. 4 of 2016. The report is being considered taking into account License terms and conditions and orders of various judicial fora.

(b) The demands are being raised after recalculation taking into account CAG report 4 of 2016; previous demands; terms and conditions of license agreement etc.

(c) CAG and department of telecom have the independent powers to audit the telecom companies. CAG conduct the audit of licensees under Comptroller and Auditor General (duties; powers and conditions of service) Act 1971. Department of telecom has the powers to conduct audit and/or special audit as per the clause 22.5 and 22.6 of the Unified Access Service License or equivalent clauses in other licenses. Both audits are independent of each other.

#### **Recruitment of Gramin Dak Sevaks**

1395. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to recruit more Gramin Dak Sevaks to handle the increased financial burden on the Department of Posts, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) how these Gramin Dak Sevaks will help to increase the banking/financial penetration in rural/semi-urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no plan to recruit more Gramin Dak Sevaks to handle the increased financial burden on the Department of Posts. The existing strength of Gramin Dak Sevaks is sufficient to handle the increased financial work of the Department of Posts.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **MTNL broadband speed in INA Colony**

1396. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL provides 8 Mbps speed (or higher speed through optical fiber cables) broadband connection to individuals in and around INA Colony, New Delhi, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the impediments and by when these facilities would be available for people residing in Government colonies in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reported that laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) involves large investment. Upgradation/ augmentation of network is a continuous process and the same is done by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) keeping in view the techno-economical considerations. MTNL has reported that in absence of firm demand of a critical mass for high speed broadband connection on optical fiber in and around INA colony of 8 Mbps speed, business cause is not made out.

#### **Postal and telephone internet services**

1397. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government for postal and telephone internet services annually during last three years;

(b) the income from these services during these years;

(c) the amount spent for upgradation of their technology/quality of service;

(d) the reasons for complaints persisting against both the services among people; and

(e) the action taken by Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Call drop problem**

1398. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a solution has been found for the call drop problems;

(b) if not, what has been contributing to the phenomenon and whether it is unique to India;

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to address the issue in the near future; and