

Digital finance

2769. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing US\$ 2 billion annually simply because of time it takes travelling to and from bank;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Digital Finance is an important opportunity to address the above and similar other issues; and
- (c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to adopt Digital Finance totally in all sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Information not available at present.

- (c) (i) The Banks have already provided the mobile banking products like Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Unified Payment Interface (UPI) etc. for facilitating transfer of funds for the customers and thereby facilitating moving towards cashless system.
- (ii) Bharat Bill Payment System has also been introduced to facilitate interoperable bill payments in the country thus enabling greater adoption of electronic payments.
- (iii) Scheduled Commercial Banks have already taken various initiatives for expanding card acceptance infrastructure to semi-urban and rural areas to provide cashless transaction system.

Poor internet connectivity

2770. SHRI K.G. KENYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to poor internet connectivity, the country is facing problems in different sectors of business and services, particularly in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir hill areas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that for many countries, telecom agreement between the countries has lapsed for a long period of time and thus, BSNL/MTNL international roaming is not working abroad therefor; and

(c) if so, for both cases, action plan of Government to upgrade/develop the mechanism and for renewal of agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through the quarterly performance monitoring reports has been monitoring the performances of service providers against the quality of service benchmarks for the various parameters laid down by the TRAI from time to time.

In respect of Broadband wireline services, the performance on connectivity is assessed through the parameters "Service availability/uptime (for all users) in %age (benchmark >98%), packet loss (benchmark <1%) and network latency. As per the performance monitoring report for the quarter ending June, 2016 issued by TRAI on 1st December, 2016, all the service providers are meeting the above benchmarks in all the service areas including Jammu and Kashmir and North East service areas.

As regard to wireless internet, the performance of cellular mobile service providers (2G & 3G) on connectivity is assessed through the parameters "successful data transmission download attempts (benchmark >80%), successful data transmission upload attempts (benchmark >75%), Latency {benchmark Data <250 milliseconds, (ms)}, Packet Data Protocol (PDP) Context Activation Success Rate (Benchmark >=95%) and Drop Rate (Benchmark <5%)". As per the performance monitoring report for the quarter ending June, 2016 issued by TRAI, all the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for the above parameters in North East and Jammu and Kashmir service areas.

The telecom service area-wise status of internet subscribers base and internet subscribers per 100 population in the country, as per the performance monitoring report for the quarter ending June 2016 issued on 1st December, 2016 by TRAI, is given in the Statement-I (*See below*). The number of internet subscribers per 100 population in Jammu and Kashmir and North East service areas are 28.46 and 29.43 respectively as against overall average of 27.51 in the country.

(b) No Sir, appropriate agreements of BSNL/MTNL are in place and their international roaming is working abroad.

(c) BharatNet has been planned to create network infrastructure for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The Project is being implemented in a phased manner, with phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs being implemented currently to be completed by March, 2017. This includes 3913 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in North Eastern Region (NER) and 624 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Remaining GPs are to be covered in phase-II. Under this project, 1,76,931 Kms of pipe and 1,48,604 Kms of fibre has been laid and connectivity to 15,134 GPs has been provided upto 04.12.2016.

Schemes under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for creation of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) infrastructure in North East are also being implemented to provide sufficient backhaul capacity to integrate the voice and data traffic from the access network in the rural areas by OFC network augmentation between the Block HQ and Districts HQ. In Assam, the scheme is being implemented by BSNL and estimated cost is ₹ 98.89 Crore. 308 nodes have been installed out of targeted 323 nodes. In North East-I (Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram), the scheme is being implemented by M/s RailTel and estimated cost is ₹89.50 Crore. 123 nodes out of targeted 188 nodes are connected on OFC. In North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland), the scheme is being implemented by M/s RailTel and estimated cost is ₹298.50 Crore. 77 nodes out of targeted 407 nodes are connected on OFC.

Statement

Details of Service area-wise internet subscriber-base and internet subscribers per 100 population as on 30th June, 2016

Telecom Service Area	Internet Subscribers (in million)	[Subscribers in Millions] Internet subscribers per 100 population
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	25.86	29.19
Assam	6.72	20.64
Bihar	20.05	14.62
Delhi	21.42	99.70
Gujarat	21.71	34.02
Haryana	7.50	27.15
Himachal Pradesh	3.09	43.38
Jammu and Kashmir	3.55	28.46
Karnataka	22.56	36.07
Kerala	14.82	41.38
Madhya Pradesh	20.98	20.13

1	2	3
Maharashtra	30.36	37.67
Mumbai	15.80	
North East	4.12	29.43
Odisha	8.42	19.77
Punjab	13.64	44.00
Rajasthan	17.78	24.26
Tamil Nadu	27.96	39.27
UP (East)	24.00	17.82
UP (West)	16.97	
Kolkata	9.31	24.38
West Bengal	13.86	
TOTAL	350.48	27.51

Spectrum sale

2771. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had fetched the exchequer ₹3.60 lakh crore in spectrum sale from the six auctions held during the last six years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that in all the auctions, Government could not realize the target it had fixed, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The details of sale of spectrum by the Government through the six auctions held during the last six years are as under:-

Year of Auction	Name of the bands	Name of the company	Total Bid Amount (₹ in crores)	Upfront amount received (₹ in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
2010	BWA (2300/2500 MHz)	Bharti Air Tel Ltd.	3314.36	3314.36
		Augere (Mauritius) Ltd.	124.66	124.66
		Infotel Broadband Services Pvt. Ltd.	12847.77	12847.77