Sl. No.	Licensed Service Area	Number of BTSs (as on 30.09.2016)
5.	Delhi	67,244
6.	Gujarat	79,420
7.	Haryana	32,787
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	17,977
9.	Karnataka	1,01,603
10.	Kerala	66,180
11.	Kolkata	35,314
12.	Maharashtra	1,10,581
13.	Mumbai	44,159
14.	North East	16,731
15.	Odisha	34,032
16.	Punjab	56,722
17.	Rajasthan	60,642
18.	West Bengal	46,130
19.	Madhya Pradesh	77,748
20.	Tamil Nadu	77,230
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	81,140
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	60,733
23.	Himachal Pradesh	13,001
	GRAND TOTAL	13,08,949

Defamatory statement by COAI against TRAI

375. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) is issuing surreptitious and defamatory statements against Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which are devoid of any merit;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is aware that COAI is controlled by private telecom operators and statements issued by COAI are beneficial to these operators; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take against COAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) The matter of surreptitious and defamatory statements made by an association against Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) can be dealt with under the Law dealing with defamation. TRAI has informed that, it, generally, does not take cognizance of the contents of news items containing such surreptitious and defamatory statements made by anybody including Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which is an association of Cellular Operators *viz.* M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Vodafone India Limited, M/s Idea Cellular Limited, M/s Aircel Cellular Limited, M/s Telenor India Limited, M/s Reliance Jio Infocom Limited and M/s Videocon Telecommunications Limited.

However, taking note of a statement of Director General of COAI in electronic media that he was not allowed to participate in a meeting held by TRAI on 09.09.2016 with some telecom operators at the behest of Reliance Jio, TRAI, *vide* its letter dated 09.09.2016, has asked Chairman, COAI to direct their Director General to retract his false statement made in the media and issue apologies for the same.

In response, Chairman, COAI *vide* his e-mail dated 10.09.2016, assured TRAI that COAI remains committed to work with TRAI to further the cause of mobility industry as a whole.

In view of the above, there is no proposal before the Government to initiate any action against COAI.

Poor services of BSNL and MTNL

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the poor services of BSNL and MTNL in most States;

(b) whether delay or failure in upgradation of equipments is one main reason for it, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to improve services of these public sector concerns;

(d) the steps taken to improve services of mobile phones for vocal contact, exchange of data, internet etc.; and

(e) whether any measures are envisaged to avoid call drops, if so, the details thereof?