

(b) The ICAR is mandated to produce breeder seed of released varieties and it is produced against the indent of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare every year. Breeder seed is supplied to indenters like public as well as private sector organizations to produce foundation and certified seeds, for making quality seed available to the farmers at affordable prices. During 2012-13 to 2015-16, 2.95 lakh quintal (q) breeder seeds of field crops were supplied to the indenters and led to production of 1261.47 lakh q of certified/quality seeds, besides 1.97 lakh q of planting material, 2628.42 lakh number of planting material and 30.71 lakh number of tissue cultured plants were produced and distributed to the farmers. These efforts resulted in record production of food grains of 265.04 million tons (mt) and horticultural production of 277.4 mt during 2013-14. However, during 2014-15 total food grains production came down to 252.02 mt and 252.23 mt in 2015-16, just 4.9% and 4.8%, less than the record production, respectively. In these years monsoon rainfall was 12% and 14% less, respectively. Secondly bad weather like wide spread hail storms and untimely rains caused heavy damage to the rabi crops in 2014-15. The first advance estimate of kharif 2016-17, food grains is estimated 135.04 mt against the 124.51 mt of 2015-16. It is about 8% higher.

(c) Question does not arise

Modernization of Indian telephone industries units

*117. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the six manufacturing units of Indian Telephone Industries are almost sick because of huge advancement of technology in the last decade and certain management issues, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the plans of the Government for modernization of these units, especially in view of the major thrust Government has laid in the fields of communication and information technology by launching Digital India scheme, which has huge potential for growth in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to continuous losses in most of its manufacturing units, ITI was declared a sick company and was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in the year 2004.

After the liberalization of telecom sector in 1990s, ITI's various manufacturing units began to run into losses. The major reasons for ITI's continued losses over the years have been absence of in-house technology, reduction in orders from major customers, namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone

Nigam Limited (MTNL), the skill sets of the existing manpower not being in tune with rapidly changing technology. Due to continued losses, its manufacturing facilities, primarily set up for landline networks of *erstwhile* DoT and BSNL/MTNL, could not be upgraded after late 1990s.

(b) The Revival package of ITI, as recommended by BIFR and Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), was approved by CCEA during February 2014. Out of the total financial package of ₹ 4156.79 crore, ₹ 2264 crore has been approved as equity for capital investments for upgrading/modernizing the manufacturing infrastructure at various plants of ITI to implement several projects identified for revival of the company under revival plan.

Out of ₹ 2264 crore, Government has already released ₹ 272 crore to the Company towards capital expenditure. The manufacturing infrastructure of the Units are being upgraded to manufacture the products as indicated below:

Unit	Products
Bangalore	Defence encryption products, Data Center, Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), ERP Project, 3D Printer
Raebareli	Gigabit Passive Optical Network (G-PON), High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) Pipe Manufacturing, OFC Cable Manufacturing, Li Ion Batteries, Switched-Mode Power Supply (SMPS)
Naini	Solar panels, Carrier Ethernet
Mankapur	Low Power BTS, Wi-fi Solutions, LTE
Palakkad	Managed Leased Line Network (MLLN), Smart Card, Contract Manufacturing for Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), HDPE Pipe, Component Screening
Srinagar	Skill Development Center

With upgradation of manufacturing infrastructure, ITI shall be able to address more business opportunities in the fields of communication and information technology and Digital India Scheme launched by the Government.

During 2015-16, ITI has recorded a turnover at ₹ 1253 crore which is more than double of that of the previous year. For the current year 2016-17, ITI has targeted a turnover of ₹ 2400 crore. The current order book position is ₹ 2932 crore and the Company has achieved a turnover of ₹ 784.12 crore till 31st October, 2016.