

for certain other minor but essential equipment such as Fibre Termination Boxes, Splitters has been made to the concerned CPSUs.

- (iii) Under the project, incremental Fibre from Fibre point of Interconnect (FPOI) to GP is being laid. At several places existing BSNL fibre before FPOI was damaged or of poor quality. Such 18,290 Km of existing fibre of poor quality has been identified for replacement based on joint survey.
- (iv) The proposal for Operation and Maintenance arrangement finalized between BBNL and BSNL has been approved by DoT.
- (v) Three Committees have been set up at various levels for monitoring the progress and resolution of issues.

Improving services of BSNL in Jammu and Kashmir

1190. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the developments made by the present Government in improving the services for subscribers of BSNL landline connections in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the district-wise details of developments made so far, particularly in Kulgam district; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the BSNL telecom exchange in Kulgam district as the subscribers of the area are facing lot of problems on a daily basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Following developmental activities have been carried out for landline subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Jammu and Kashmir:—

1. Landline and Broadband connections provided are as below:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (up to Oct 16)
Landline	15939	20623	18223

2. Transmission system/Bandwidth up gradation: 28 numbers of high capacity transmission systems Multi Add Drop Multiplexers (MADM16) have been installed for augmentation of available capacity/bandwidth for telephone/broadband exchanges.
3. Transmission routes: A plan for more than 1500 Km. of new transmission routes has been finalized for improvement in reliability of transmission media. Execution of work on Srinagar-Leh, Jammu-Srinagar, Doda-Kishtawar and Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch routes is already undertaken by NTP (Northern Telecom Project).

Five numbers of 7 GcMicrowave links at Doda, Kishtawar, Rajouri, Poonch and Bhadrwah have been proposed and the survey is under progress by NTP.

4. NGN Project: 6000 lines of Next Generation Networks (NGN) has been installed at Jammu and Srinagar and purchase order for 44256 lines has also been placed. With this modern world class facility can be offered to customers in these exchange areas.
5. Provisioning of New Battery/Power Plants: Replacement of old, faulty, life expired Power Plant/Batteries have been undertaken and 225 new batteries and 85 power plants have been procured and installed for improvement in availability/reliability of telephone exchanges.
6. Public Grievance System: A 24X7 customer call centre is functioning for booking customer complaints. A SMS based Landline/Broadband fault booking system from any mobile connection has been made functional. For registering grievances, Facebook/Twitter pages of Jammu and Kashmir Circle has been launched. The Twitter Seva Service has been launched by BSNL to redress customer grievance on social media.

(b) Secondary Switching Areas (SSA) Srinagar comprises of 10 districts namely, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Badgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwana, Baramulla, Bandipur and Kupwara. Following major development works were undertaken for benefitting the landline services in these districts:—

1. Installation of new MPLS PE router at Srinagar for enhancing the high speed port capacity of broadband equipment and up gradation of backbone bandwidth for enhancing speed of broadband service enabling customers including that of Kulgam to experience better speed. This PE router has been provided with dual homing connectivity with Jammu and Chandigarh for reliability. Earlier Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) Srinagar was parented to PE at Jammu only.
2. Kulgam Telephone Exchange is connected on Reliable optical fibre media (STM-16) ring and there is no major interruption observed in media. Also, new Add and Drop Multiplexers (ADMs) at Bandipora, Soura, Gogzibagh Srinagar, Barzula, CTO compound Srinagar, Baramulla, Boniyar installed for enhancing the capacity of transmission media.
3. In Kulgam, 500 lines CDOT RSU (Remote Switch Unit) with 216 working connection is operational. 112 BB connections are working and a capacity of 300 lines capacity Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) (240P+120P) is installed. 120 P DSLAM was installed in Dec 2015. Enough spare capacity is available for meeting future demand of LL/BB connections.

4. New Battery set of 1000 AH capacity was installed in May, 2016 to replace old battery set. 500 Amp Power plant installed in March, 2012 is working satisfactorily. Sufficient number of split ACs are available for maintain the required ambient conditions.
5. The electric power supply availability in Kulgam area is on an average 15 hrs per day. Two DG sets (35 KVA and 50 KVA) are available in exchange for back up of power supply. Kulgam is parented to Anantanag on OFC.
6. Outdoor Underground (U/G) Plant is working properly and presently no major cable fault is pending in Kulgam. New u/g cables in Kulgam were laid during the year 2016 for making areas falling within 2.5 to 3.0 KMs feasible so as to meet LL/BB services demand.

Following exchanges are also working in district Kulgam:—

- 248 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 50 wkg. connections at village Bomthan and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand.
- 248 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 80 wkg. connections at village Khudwani and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand.
- 500 Lines AN-RAX exchange with 60 wkg. connections at village Qazigund and enough spare capacity available to meet new demand. 26 BB connections are working from 120 P DSLAM.
- 4000 lines of NGN Exchange commissioned in Bemina (Srinagar). The customers of this exchange may avail advanced value added services in addition to LL and BB services.
- 19 BTSs, 2G are working in whole Kulgam district area and two 3G BTSs for data services (at locations Kulgam and Chawalgam) and 7 WLL BTSs (489 working connections). All BTSs working satisfactorily.

(c) Steps being taken to improve the BSNL telecom exchange in Kulgam district are as detailed below:—

- New underground cable is being planned in few areas such as Chawalgam, Laru which are presently non feasible.
- Due to road widening in Kulgam, local underground cables got badly damaged impacting the services in the area which has now been revived/ replaced and the external plant is reported to be working satisfactorily.
- Customer Service Centre at Kulgam with facility of cash counter for landline/postpaid mobile bills is available. Direct Selling Agent (DSA) is also available in area for booking of landline/mobile/WLL etc.

- Technical Inspection of exchanges is being done by Divisional Engineer (DE) and deficiencies found are being rectified promptly.

Certificate of incorporation to India Post Payments Bank

1191. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post Payments Bank has received the certificate of incorporation, paving the way for the postal department's bank to begin operations in 2017, as announced;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this will be the first Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Posts; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Department is expected to roll out branches across the country by September, 2017, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, India Post Payments Bank has received the certificate of Incorporation.

(b) Yes, Sir, it has been incorporated as a Public limited Company on 17.8.2016 with 100% GOI equity under the Department of Posts and has been registered by Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 2013. It will be the first Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Posts.

(c) Yes, Sir, the Cabinet has approved the proposal on 1st June, 2016 with the direction to complete the proposed roll out of all 650 branches and its linkage of the post offices by September, 2017. Necessary steps for implementation of the project are being taken as per target set by the Cabinet.

Appointment of DSAs/MBAs by MTNL

†1192. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has appointed Direct Selling Agents/MTNL Business Associates (DSAs/MBAs) to deliver their services to consumers, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said DSAs/MBAs are being provided with commission as per booking of per connection, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.