

taken. However, earth resistance of Bhatwari Exchange is within permissible limits now.

(d) During the last 6 months, the fault booking and clearance in Bhatwari Exchange was as follows:—

Total No. of faults booked	105
Average fault rate (per 100 subscribers per month)	9.2
Average fault clearance time	9 hrs.
% Fault clearance within 24 hrs.	70%
% Fault clearance within 7 days	98%
% Fault clearance within 15 days	100%

### **Broadband policy**

\*243. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to announce a fresh policy to push broadband and internet penetration with focus to provide faster connectivity at lower prices;

(b) if so, whether Government have also decided to have a revamp of the telecom policy; and

(c) if so, to what extent this new policy would attract new investment, create job opportunities and provide access to new and improved services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Keeping in view the technological developments and socio-economic benefits of broadband being derived in many countries, the Government is considering to bring out a policy to accelerate broadband and internet penetration.

(b) In the context of unprecedented growth in tele-density, technological changes and issues of digital divide, the Government feels that there is need for revamping the New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP 99). However, no time-frame has been fixed at this stage.

[22 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The impact of the new policy on new investment, creation of job opportunities and access to new and improved services can be gauged only after the contours of the revamp exercise is defined.

**Joint venture for making satellites**

\*244. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has entered into an agreement with Boeing company to make satellites under joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what will be the financial implications for ISRO;

(d) whether any profits are expected by ISRO; and

(e) to what extent ISRO would be able to technically contribute to this joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Antrix Corporation, which is the commercial arm of Department of Space, are holding discussions with Boeing Satellite Systems of USA to jointly manufacture and market 2000 kg. class of communication satellites globally. However, there is no proposal for any joint venture.

(c) and (d) Financial aspects have not been finalized. However, the proposed teaming arrangement is expected to mutually benefit both the parties.

(e) The jointly built spacecraft is proposed to use the satellite platform developed by ISRO contributing towards state-of-art technology.

**Number of unemployed persons**

\*245. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons from 2000-01 to 2003-04, State-wise;