

scales for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) with effect from 01.01.2007, the benefit of merger of 50% DA (Dearness Allowance) effectively amounting to 78.2% for the purposes of fitment is being paid. The additional expenditure being incurred due to revision is being borne by BSNL.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has recommended to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for extending the benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% for which it has sought full financial support from the DoT due to its present financial situation. The proposal of MTNL has been examined and it has been observed that there will be financial implications of ₹ 140 crores per annum towards additional burden on salaries and around ₹ 1136 crores for payment of arrears. Further there will be financial implications on account of pensionary benefits to be paid by Government. As per DPE (Department of Public Enterprises) guidelines the CPSE concern has to bear the additional financial implication on account of pay revision from their own resources.

Use of cable TV infrastructure for Broadband Delivery

2606. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to use cable TV infrastructure for broadband delivery in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to boost broadband penetration in order to ensure success of Digital India Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom service providers are free to provide broadband services through any media such as Optical Fibre Cable, Copper Cable, Cable TV network and wireless depending on techno-commercial feasibility. 14,75,228 subscribers are being provided broadband services on cable TV network as on 31st December, 2016. However, Government is examining various issues related to facilitating broadband service by using Cable TV infrastructure.

(b) BharatNet is planned to create network infrastructure for providing 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country in two phases. 1,00,000 GPs are targeted to be covered in Phase-I and the balance 1,50,000 will be covered in Phase-II.

Through various auctions conducted for sale of spectrum from the year 2012 to the year 2016, a total of 1893.75 MHz spectrum has been allotted to telecom service providers, which can also be used for provision of wireless broadband.