

(d) BharatNet Project is being implemented for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayat (approximately 2,50, 000) in the country, and to provide non-discriminatory access to service providers, for provisioning of broadband services in rural areas.

Bringing OTT services under statutory regulatory framework

2612. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to bring Over The Top (OTT) services, predominantly used over the internet, under a statutory regulatory framework; and

(b) in the absence of an institutional mechanism, how does Government aim to protect user privacy and provide remedy to citizens in case of violation by the service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued a consultation paper on 27.3.2015 regarding "Regulatory Framework for OTT Services". This consultation paper discusses various issues relating to OTT services. TRAI is yet to submit its recommendations in this regard to Department of Telecommunications.

(b) The provisions of section 43A of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 establish a legal framework for data privacy protection in India. It provides remedy to citizens in case of violation by way of compensation in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

2613. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is mulling to merge BSNL and MTNL, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether both organisations are making losses consecutively for the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the extent of losses incurred and the concrete steps Government is taking to make the behemoth entities viable in the background of stiff competition in the telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there is no proposal for merger of Bharat