

two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of ₹ 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of ₹ 295.97 crore on 10.9.2014.

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of ₹ 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of ₹ 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.

#### **Internet users in the country**

2614. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the likely increase in the internet users in the country because of fast adoption of digital technology;

(b) if so, the data on internet users in the country till February and how much of increase is anticipated by the end of next calendar year; and

(c) whether Government is prepared to deal with the situation and is capable to provide internet facility of high speed to the new consumers uninterruptedly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Due to fast adoption of digital technology, it is expected that number of internet users will increase in the country.

As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), there were 391.50 million Internet subscribers as on 31.12.2016. Data on internet users for the subsequent period is presently not available.

The anticipated increase in the internet users by the end of next calendar year is not available at present. However, National Telecom Policy-2012 envisages 600 million broadband connections by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed. Further, as per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) – Akamai report launched on 17.08.2016 regarding “The Future of Internet in India”, 730 million Internet users are anticipated in the country by 2020.

(c) Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. This will enable the telecom service providers to roll-out 3G and 4G services which will facilitate proliferation of high speed internet facility.

Further, for provision of broadband facility in rural areas, BharatNet Project is also being implemented to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media.

#### **Pendency of cases in Consumer Fora**

2615. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in Consumer Fora;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, level-wise;
- (c) whether there are vacancies of Presidents and Members in the Fora, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when these posts are going to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The details of the number of cases pending in various Consumer Fora in the country are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned to fill up the vacancies of President and Member in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and the District Fora in the States/UTs. The Central Government is concerned with filling up of the vacancies of President and Member in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) located at New Delhi. At present there are two vacancies of Member in NCDRC and action has already been initiated to fill the said two vacancies. The details of vacancies in the Consumer Fora are as under:—

Sl. No.	No. of vacancies of President	No. of vacancies of Members
1.	95	307

#### ***Statement***

##### ***(A) Details of pending cases in the National Commission and State Commissions***

Sl. No.	Name of State	Cases Pending	As On
<b>National Commission</b>		12609	28.02.2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh	897	31.01.2017