

(c) the number of women employees among them; and

(d) whether prospects of employment of women in IT industry is likely to increase in the coming years, if so, the estimate thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the Indian IT industry currently employs nearly 3.86 million people, an addition of 1,73,000 over last year. Among these employees, about 46% of the employees are technology (engineering and post graduates). Over 34 % of the total employment in IT industry, about 1.3 million are women employees. The total employment in IT industry, percentage of women employees and percentage of technology graduates for last 3 years is as under:

Year	Total Employees (in Million)	Net Addition	% of Women employees	Technical (engineering and post graduates)
2014-15	3.49	2,18,000	-34%	45%
2015-16	3.69	2,03,000	-34%	46%
2016-17(E)	3.86	1,73,000	-34%	46%

With various promotional measures being taken by both Industry and Government towards education, training and employment of women, it is expected that women employment percentage would increase in all fields including IT industry. IT Industry also provides indirect employment to about 10 million persons. In addition, in the last two years, 72 new mobile manufacturing units have been set up contributing to employment of women & youth.

Cultivation of new variety of Arhar PADT 16

*328. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Arhar genotype PADT 16, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, has been tested during Kharif 2016 season in the national trial of All India Coordinated Research Project on Pigeonpea under different agro-ecological niches, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for release of this variety to farmers for cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, the new Arhar genotype PADT 16, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), was tested at Hisar, Ludhiana, Pantnagar, Durgapura, Kota and New Delhi locations along with six other genotypes against three check varieties in North Western Plain Zone (NWPZ) during Kharif 2016 season in All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pigeonpea. In the aforesaid trial, PADT-16 recorded average yield of 963.5 kg/ha with average maturity of 136 days, while average yield of the best check variety PAU 881 was 1371.75 kg/ha. Earlier, in station trial at IARI during 2012, 2013 and 2014, PADT 16 genotype had an average yield of 2100, 1943 and 2023 kg/ha respectively.

(b) Varietal Identification Committee (VIC) of ICAR in its meeting held on 20th March, 2017 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi considered the proposal of PADT 16 for identification. However, the VIC has recommended for retesting of PADT-16 in the same trial of AICRP on Pigeonpea for one more year, keeping in view yield variation over locations.

Gram panchayats connected by internet under BharatNet

*329. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Gram Panchayats to be connected by internet under BharatNet under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds under BharatNet during 2015 and 2016; and

(c) the progress of BharatNet as on 31st December, 2016, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) BharatNet project is being implemented for providing Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. State/Union Territory wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) The allocation of funds under BharatNet during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 is as under: