

budget outlay of 380 crore was approved on 09.12.2014 under Digital India programme. The cumulative target of making 52.50 lakh persons digitally literate under the above two schemes has been achieved in December, 2016.

- (iii) Government has approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate to usher in digital literacy in rural India at an outlay of ₹ 2,351.38 crore. Under the PMGDISHA scheme, to ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats would be expected to register an average of 200-300 candidates.

Interconnecting problems of BSNL and MTNL networks

3416. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for facing connectivity problem when migrating from BSNL to MTNL as both are owned by Government; and
- (b) whether Government has a plan to merge BSNL and MTNL for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Roaming services between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are working properly in their respective licensed service areas.

No complaint on connectivity issue for migration from BSNL to MTNL has been received.

- (b) At present, there is no proposal for merger of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

Direct procurement of pulses

3417. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the buffer stock of pulses to protect the interests of farmers;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to engage Central agencies to procure pulses directly from farmers; and