

हम यह कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि पूरी मात्रा में ज्यादा से ज्यादा स्टेशंस पर यह लगे। यदि हमें धन उपलब्ध होगा, ...(व्यवधान)... यह आप भी जानते हैं कि रेल की फाइनेंशियल पोजिशन क्या है, उसके बाद भी, जैसा मैंने आपको बताया कि कितनी बड़ी मात्रा में हम लोगों ने उसमें बढ़ोतरी भी लाई है। यह बिल्कुल सही है कि सभी प्लेटफॉर्म्स पर यह लगना चाहिए। मैं भी यह मानता हूँ, लेकिन मैं आपको जानकारी के लिए कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले ढाई सालों में जितने एस्केलेटर्स लगे हैं, उनकी मात्रा अगर आप देखें, तो ढाई साल पहले वे कितने थे और कितनी बड़ी मात्रा में लगे हैं। मैं बिल्कुल मानता हूँ कि उसमें बढ़ोतरी होनी चाहिए. ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

Better internet service to the household consumers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL/MTNL broadband internet connection, availed by household consumers, works at a very slow speed and remains erratic with the result that people have no choice but to opt for private internet connection;

(b) the major reasons for this state of affairs when the country is so capable in satellite technology; and

(c) whether Government has any concrete plan to make BSNL/MTNL internet services efficient and faster?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No Sir, the speed of Broadband connections is provided as per tariff plans opted by the household customers. After the expiry of the fair usage limits, as per tariff plan opted the speed falls back to the level as defined in the plan. After Fair Usage Policy (FUP) customer has an option to restore the pre-FUP speed by making additional payment. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has increased the FUP limit (speed) from 512 Kbps (Kilo-bytes per second) to 1 Mbps (Mega-bytes per second) from 01.08.2016 without any additional cost to customer to provide better speed experience to customer.

The speed mentioned in any tariff plan is the maximum speed that a customer can get. A customer may get lesser speed at some point of time depending upon following factors:

- (i) broadband speed at the customer end depends on number of factors like speed of individual website being accessed,
- (ii) processing speed of customer end device,
- (iii) features of the broadband tariff plan chosen by the customer and
- (iv) location of server across the globe hosting the respective web site being accessed by the customer.

Most of the Broadband connections provided by BSNL and MTNL to wireline and mobile customers are through terrestrial media. Similar is the position for other Telecom Service Providers (TSP) too. Satellite media is used largely for far flung remote areas only, where provision of terrestrial media is costlier as compared to satellite media.

(c) Following steps have been taken by BSNL and MTNL for improving and strengthening the wire line Broadband services in the country;

Steps taken by BSNL:

- (i) Augmentation of broadband speed up to 2 Mbps for all the customers.
- (ii) BSNL has increased the FUP limit (speed) from **512 Kbps to 1 Mbps** from 01.08.2016 without any additional cost to customer.
- (iii) Replacement of DNS (Domain Name System) server with high capacity and latest technology.
- (iv) Addition of one more Broadband POP (Point of Presence) at Chandigarh.
- (v) Deployment of Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) based Next Generation Packet Access Network (MNG-PAN) network in selected cities.
- (vi) Up-gradation of 1 G ring to 10 G rings (32 rings)
- (vii) Peering/Caching with content providers.

Steps taken by MTNL:

- (i) Augmentation of fibre network.
- (ii) Implementation of Very-high-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM).
- (iii) Bringing DSLAM near to subscriber location.
- (iv) High speed Wi-Fi network.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 21. The questioner is not present. Let the answer be given.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Sir, BSNL broad band users face problems from the domain name server. The DNS is not that much active. It doesn't respond many times because the new default router when we get a new BSNL connection usually they don't give us the better performance quality products. So, because of this, we usually face problems. At times, Sir, we have to pay four times more than the private players, which give us better connectivity than BSNL. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the BSNL and MTNL internet service providers come up with the time and use the latest technology and upgrade their equipment so that the connectivity could be improved in the near future.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister, Shri Manoj Sinha is absent; and on his request you are kind enough to allow me to reply on his behalf.

Sir, I have taken note of the suggestion of the hon. Member. BSNL is improving a lot of its operational activities and requirements. There has been a legacy issue to which I had occasion to earlier share in the House. It had a profit of ₹ 10,000 crore in 2004. It came down to ₹ 8,000 crore loss in 2014. But today I am happy to announce in this House that their operating profit has gone up by ₹ 4,000 crore and the losses have come down to ₹ 3880 crore. Their revenue also has gone up. You are right; they are investing in new products. There is greater need for involvement. They are giving one Mega-byte free services for the whole broad band. Surely, we take note of your suggestions. If any specific complaint is there, our official would respond to it.

Sir, one thing this House needs to know. It is very important. My good friend, Mr. Raja was talking about PSUs. The human resource component of BSNL/MTNL is more than 50 per cent of their revenue expenditure.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Establishment cost!

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, in the case of the private sector, establishment cost is only two to three per cent. In spite of this heavy load, for good measure, we need to support employment. If they are doing so well, coming into profit, making new investment and turning things around, I think this initiative needs to be appreciated. Secondly, this House also needs to remember that during natural calamities, it is only these public bodies which provide free services. We need to appreciate that. We know that very well in the case of Chennai. So, the good part also needs to be appreciated. If there is any specific issue, we would certainly look into that.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Hon. Chairman, Sir, we are now in the age of 'struck-up India', 'hanging India' and 'hacking India'. I am aware of the capability and the comprehension of the senior Minister. Even though the regular Minister is absent, I would like to know from him what the Government's take on broadband connectivity is. What is the scope and necessity of broadband connectivity at present, keeping in mind the growing demand of cashless digital transactions in the light of demonetization, so as to serve the PIOs and aid such cashless transactions, which are increasingly leading to hanging of websites and struck-up credit card transactions? Keep this in view while assessing broadband connectivity and its future requirements.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is the computers that are hanging, not human beings!

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I was also taken aback! I am grateful. Sir, I appreciate the interest shown by the hon. Member in digital payments. Keep it up!

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Sir, I also take a lot of interest in cyber. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please; you have asked your question.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: We would all be benefited by your wisdom one day.

Sir, as far as Internet penetration is concerned, his point is fairly well taken. India today is home to about 50 crore Internet connections. We need to increase it. We are expanding connectivity of *Gram Panchayats* through the Optical Fibre Network. I want to gently remind this House that it was started by your Government, Mr. Anand Sharma. It was known as NOFN. Now, we have made it *Bharat Net*. It was started in 2011. Till 2014, in three years, the total length of optical fibre laid was 358 kilometres. We have laid down 1,92,000 kilometres in two-and-a-half years. That is how we are doing it. We need to take it further. Private players too are coming in. Wireless (WiFi) technology is coming up in a very big way. All these are designed to make it more and more pro-people.

Sir, I go to a lot of these Startup convocations. I see young people doing so well and coming up with new technology for broadband. We all need to work together. I do take your suggestion on board, but let me tell you, Indians first observe technology, then adopt it and, finally, they become empowered in the process. I see a lot of new technologies coming up in India to further expand Internet connectivity in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...(Interruptions)... One minute. Your question is over. Shrimati Kahkashan Perween.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि पिछले पांच सालों में गांवों में बीएसएनएल और एमटीएनएल के उपभोक्ताओं की संख्या बढ़ी है या घटी है? इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूँ कि इन दो सालों में कितने गांवों में स्पीड हाई-फाई नेटवर्क लगाए गए हैं?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, इस विभाग को अब मैं हैंडल नहीं कर रहा हूँ और यह प्रश्न इस प्रश्न से संबंधित नहीं है, लेकिन फिर भी अपने अनुभव के आधार पर मैं उनको बताना चाहूंगा कि आज कल बीएसएनएल 20 लाख कस्टमर्स प्रति महीने ऐड कर रहा है और वह इस क्षेत्र में देश में चौथे नंबर पर आ गया है, जब कि पहले इनकी संख्या 5 या 6 लाख में हुआ करती थी। इस विकास के लिए उनका सम्मान तो होना चाहिए और वह गांवों में भी बहुत काम कर रहा है। सभापति जी, चूंकि माननीय सदस्या ने स्पेसिफिक संख्या मांगी है, इसलिए मैं विभाग को कहूंगा और वहां से लेकर हम उनको प्रोवाइड करा देंगे।

एक बात हमें अवश्य कहनी चाहिए, वह यह है कि भारत में जो तकनीकी बदलाव हो रहा है, उसके मद्देनजर मैं देख रहा हूँ कि विस्तार से नई-नई सेवाएं शुरू होंगी और बीएसएनएल भी उनको काफी इंप्रूव करेगा, एमटीएनएल दिल्ली में लगभग हजार नए बीटीएस लगाने की योजना बना रहा है, मुम्बई में वह काफी काम कर रहा है। इस प्रकार से हम मिल कर काम करेंगे, निजी क्षेत्र भी काम करेंगे और पीएसयूज भी काम करेंगे। ऐसे मिल कर देश को सशक्त करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question No. 22.

Conversion of agricultural land for other purposes

*22. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced due to the conversion and diversion of agricultural land towards non-agricultural uses, which has led to a shrinkage in the agricultural output;

(b) the details of agricultural land that has been converted for non-agricultural uses in the country in the last two years and the current year; and

(c) whether any policy/law has been implemented by Government to contain such conversion of agricultural land, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government is aware of the problems of the conversion and diversion of agricultural land towards non-agricultural uses. While there is a shift