

Growth of mobile subscriber base post demonetization

224. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demonetization has affected the growth of mobile subscriber base, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that demonetization has cut mobile phone growth forecast, as per study of a research firm in the field of telecommunications, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) do not foresee any link between demonetization and growth of mobile subscriber base. As such, DoT will not comment on any study by any research firm in this regard.

Recovery of dues from telecoms

225. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to recover the dues from telecom companies, which misreported their income and paid less amount to Government, as indicated by CAG, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has any plans to identify such type of mis-reporting by companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, Department of Telecom has issued demand-cum-show cause notices to six private telecom companies for a total amount of ₹ 29474 crore on account of License Fee (LF); taking into account CAG Report No. 4 of 2016, terms and conditions of license agreement, status of litigation etc.

(b) Yes Sir, the special audit has been ordered by the Department of Telecom for three Financial Years *i.e.* 2008-09 to 2010-11 of six major Telecom Service Providers.

BSNL towers in Rajasthan

†226. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of BSNL towers in Rajasthan along with the number of towers non-operational and by when these towers would start working; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.