

**Internet speed**

†2304. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internet speed in the country is even slower than that in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if not, country's position in the world in terms of internet speed; and

(c) by when internet speed will be improved in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Akamai's (an international agency) Quarter 1, 2017 report on "The State of Internet", India has a global rank of 89 with an average internet connection speed of 6.5 Mbps. Sri Lanka has a global rank of 68 with average internet connection speed of 8.5 Mbps. As per Akamai report, only 15 countries were surveyed from Asia Pacific Countries for average connection speed and Pakistan does not figure in the list of countries surveyed.

The global rank of India was 114 with average internet speed of 3.5 Mbps, as per Akamai's Quarter 1, 2016 report. Sri Lanka was having a global rank of 83 with an average internet speed of 5.4 Mbps as per that report.

Thus, there has been an improvement in India's global rank in terms of average internet connection speed during last one year. Continuous efforts are being made to further improve internet speed in the Country. Internet speed depends on various parameters such as technology deployed, network coverage, number of simultaneous users accessing the internet, connectivity to the website being accessed etc.

(c) For improvement of internet speed in the country, telecom networks are being upgraded continuously.

In order to improve internet/ broadband facilities in rural areas, BharatNet project has been planned to provide 100 Mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) which is under implementation. Under Phase-II, targeted to be completed by March 2019, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. Provision of last mile access to the network and broadband service provisioning shall be through Wi-Fi or any other broadband access technologies in all 2,50,000 GPs in the country.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Also, Government has allocated 965 Megahertz spectrum through auction in October, 2016 to various telecom service providers for access services. In order to provide high-speed internet services in the country, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers.

#### **Cases in consumer courts**

2305. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of pending cases in consumer courts have been constantly increasing year on year;
- (b) if so, the details of all cases filed and cleared over the past three year, sector-wise;
- (c) the funds spend on infrastructure of consumer courts and details of vacancies of judicial staff over the past three years; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to fast-track cases in consumer courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. From the data available in the CONFONET software, meant for monitoring complaints filed in the Consumer Fora, the cumulating pendency of complaints in the Consumer Fora is increasing over the years. The details of cases filed and disposed of over the past three years from 2014 to 2016, sector-wise, are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) Under the provisions of the consumer Protection Act, 1986, the State Governments are supposed to establish State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and District fora, and consequently to provide physical infrastructure and manpower for their smooth functioning. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments the Central Government has been providing grants-in-aid for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora in the states.

The details of the funds released for these purposes are given in Statement-II (See below). The details of vacancies of President and Members in the Consumer Fora is given in Statement-III (See below).

- (d) The following are the steps taken to fast track cases in consumer fora:—
  - (i) The National Commission holds Circuit Bench sittings in State headquarters for rendering speedy justice to benefit the consumers of that particular State.