

Government has also 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 and enhancement of internet penetration in the country, 3G/4G networks are being rolled out progressively by the telecom service providers.

(c) In order to identify the relevant issues involved in Net Neutrality, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had constituted a Committee in Jan., 2015. The Committee had recommended various measures including adherence to core principles of Net Neutrality.

Further, TRAI issued a pre-consultation paper on net neutrality on 30.05.2016. Based on the inputs received during the pre-consultation stage, TRAI issued a consultation paper on Net Neutrality on 04.01.2017 and TRAI is currently examining the various issues involved in Net Neutrality.

The matter shall be further examined on receipt of recommendations of TRAI on Net Neutrality.

(d) In view of above, at present, no assessment has been carried out about the impact of Net Neutrality in the increase of internet penetration percentage.

Irregularities in offers of mobile Telecom Service Providers

1502. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mobile Telecom Service Providers are luring the customers by resorting to illegal offers which restrict the customers from shifting from one provider to another, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether TRAI has noticed any such irregularities being offered by mobile Telecom Service Providers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) (a) and (b) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have flexibility to design their products to suit consumer demand and fix tariffs for these products. There is no bar on TSPs in offering special tariff for valid class of subscribers as part of Loyalty/Customer retention schemes. Luring the customers by adopting illegal offers has not been noticed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.