

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BSNL has informed that no such Purchase order No. CT/APO/12/2014-15 dated 19.06.2014 for supply, installation and commissioning of IP-MPLS Edge Routers and associated equipments for Network for Spectrum (NFS) has been issued by the BSNL.

Formulation of new National Telecom Policy

1505. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating a National Telecom Policy to meet the developments in the industry;

(b) if so, by when the draft policy will be ready;

(c) whether the new policy will seek to address over the National Telecom Policy of 2012 and look at areas such as technology innovation and security, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the new policy will meet the targets on broadband speed and formulation of National Mobile Property Registry, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the interests of consumers will be protected in the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes Sir, the Department of Telecom envisages to formulate a new National Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector;

(b) The draft policy is likely to be ready by the end of this financial year.

(c) to (e) As the process of formulation of the aforesaid policy is at a very nascent stage, the exact provisions of the policy cannot be indicated at present. However, the new National Telecom Policy may include areas of technology innovation, security and protecting the interests of consumers.

Tracing lost/stolen mobiles through IMEI number

1506. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is difficult to trace lost or stolen mobile phones in the country even on the basis of IMEI number, if so, the main reason for this slip;

(b) whether Government has taken any cognizance of the hardship which the mobile owners face in everyday life; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken or to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) State Police/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) trace the lost/or stolen mobile handsets through International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) search facility available in the Telecom Network. Moreover, as and when required Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) block the mobile handsets by putting the IMEI of said handsets into the black list in Equipment Identity Register (EIR) of telecom network. However, some instances have been reported of changing IMEI of mobile phones with the help of softwares available in market, which make tracing of the lost/or stolen handsets difficult.

(b) and (c) Government has already taken cognizance of this matter and to address this, steps taken by the Government are as follows:—

- (i) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is implementing Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) in a phased manner with an aim to curtail the counterfeit mobile phone market and discourage mobile phone theft, in order to protect consumer interest and facilitate law enforcement authorities for lawful interception. CEIR intends to connect IMEI database of all mobile Operators and act as a central system for all telecom network operators to share black listed mobile terminals so that devices blacklisted in one network will not work on other networks even if the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card in the mobile device is changed.
- (ii) The instructions have been issued by DoT *vide* letter dated 27.11.2009 directing all the telecom service providers that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of Global System for Mobile Association (GSMA) or without IMEI or with zeroes only as IMEI should not be processed and must be rejected with effect from 30.11.2009.
- (iii) DoT is also considering to frame a Rule under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 making intentional removal, obliteration, tampering with or altering of mobile phone equipment identification number an illegal offence. Moreover, anybody indulging in this illegal activity can be dealt under Section 25 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 which deals with intentionally damaging or tampering with telegraphs.

- (iv) After due consultations with Ministry of Home Affairs, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and Industry, the amended Notification has been issued vide No. 107/ (RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 16th January, 2015 which prohibits import of 'GSM Mobile Handsets' without IMEI No., with all zeroes IMEI, duplicate IMEI or fake IMEI and CDMA mobile phones without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/ Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID), with all zeroes as ESN/MEID, duplicate ESN/MEID or fake ESN/MEID with immediate effect.
- (v) In collaboration with GSMA which allocates IMEI, the IMEI Cloning and Duplication Restriction (ICDR) system has been installed across the country for validation of genuine IMEI by the customs authorities. DoT in consultation with CBEC has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for validation process of genuine IMEI at the ports of import to ensure that mobile handsets with fake/duplicate IMEI are prevented from entry into the country.
- (vi) DoT also provides technical assistance in detection of mobile handsets, as and when required by the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

Covering of Gram Panchayats under BharatNet

1507. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:—

- (a) the various deadlines for covering all Gram Panchayats under the BharatNet project, the reasons for delay and for coming out with new deadlines;
- (b) how many Gram Panchayats have been covered so far, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the deadline for covering the rest of the Gram Panchayats;
- (d) whether active broadband connections have been made available to all Gram Panchayats, the State-wise details of all Gram Panchayats which have active internet connections; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in covering all Gram Panchayats with active internet and the deadline for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) A Committee was set up by the Department of Telecom in January, 2015 to review the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project. Based on the recommendations of the Committee and implementation experience of Phase I, implementation strategy for the project (renamed as BharatNet) has been