

consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields”. Accordingly, to create awareness among the citizens and to allay the fear of EMF radiations and resistance from local bodies, 15 teams comprising of officials from DoT, Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) and senior doctors from Goa, Karnataka and Hyderabad were mobilised in September, 2016 to address the concerns across 18 Gram Sabhas in South Goa.

(d) There was temporary requirement to enhance the telecom connectivity during BRICS event in Goa. In order to meet the requirement, 38 towers/Cell on Wheels (COW) shared by multiple operators were given clearance by the Gram Panchayats for installation. After conclusion of event, 8 towers have been dismantled.

(e) As of now, extensively towers are being used to provide the mobile coverage.

Failure of telephone services in Samastipur, Bihar

†1515. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is committed to strengthen the communication system, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether owing to the repeated failure of telephone services in the Samastipur district of Bihar, the public has to face a lot of inconvenience; and

(c) the reasons why the officers do not heed despite repeated requests, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate improvement and expansion of telecommunication services, the Government has initiated a series of measures which include: (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz in 2016, (ii) allowing Spectrum Sharing, Trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per the guidelines to facilitate efficient utilisation, (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the telecom service providers for achieving higher utilisation efficiency, (iv) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers), (v) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by the Telecom Service Providers (TSP) leading to addition of around 3.58 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) on aggregate basis for 2G/3G/4G services during the period: 15 June, 2016 to 30, June 2017, (vi) facilitating use of Government estate for installation of mobile towers on multiple-sharing basis, (vii) launching of Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on call drops to get direct feedback from mobile subscribers and sharing the feedback with TSPs for corrective action (viii) launching of Tarang Sanchar, a public web portal for information sharing on mobile towers and their EMF compliances.

Further, various Schemes are being implemented/planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to improve the communication system in the country including Bihar.

(b) and (c) No repeated failure of telephone services has been reported in the Samastipur district of Bihar.

Procurement of wheat

1516. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of wheat produced since 2014 and that procured by Food Corporation of India, year-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of wheat production in the current harvesting of Kharif season;

(c) the quantity of wheat targeted to be procured from farmers by Government during the current season and at what price and the quantity procured, so far; and

(d) whether large quantity of wheat is contemplated to be imported from overseas, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The total production of the nation and procurement from that of wheat by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government/Agencies for Central Pool since 2014 is as under:—

[Fig. in Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT)]

Rabi Marketing Season (RMS)	Production	Procurement		
		FCI	State Government/ Agencies (SGA)	Total
2014-15	958.5	35.33	244.90	280.23
2015-16	865.3	29.84	251.04	280.88
2016-17	922.9	30.47	199.14	229.61
2017-18	974.4*	36.09	272.15	308.24

*As per third Advance estimates of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for crop season 2016-17 dated 09.05.2017.