

(c) whether Government will take any precautionary measures to prevent any effect of Net Neutrality in USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent federal agency of USA which is responsible for implementing and enforcing USA's communications law and regulations. Recently, on 14th December, 2017, FCC has repealed the Net Neutrality rules of 2015.

(b) and (c) Since the Net Neutrality rules have recently been repealed by FCC in USA, it is too early to have an assessment of any impact of the same affecting Indian companies.

In India, Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through its regulation "Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016" dated 8th February, 2016 has, *inter-alia*, prohibited any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariff for data services on the basis of content.

Besides, TRAI has also submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28th November, 2017 recommending that Internet access services should be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content.

#### **Establishment of base transceiver station in villapuram, Tamil Nadu**

2152. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the steps taken so far and proposed by BSNL to establish Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in the Villapuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu to, enhance and augment mobile connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): At present, 231 2G BTS (Base Transceiver Station) and 55 3G Node-B of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working in Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu State.

To enhance and augment mobile connectivity in Villupuram district, BSNL plans to establish 56 new high capacity 3G Node Bs under Phase-VIII.4 expansion project.

The Mobile coverage especially the 3G coverage in Villupuram district will be enhanced with new high capacity 3G Node Bs on implementation of Phase -VIII.4 Project.

#### **Internet shutdowns**

2153. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of internet shutdowns taken place in the country in the last three years under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), year-wise; and

(b) the details of internet shutdowns taken place under recently released Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 in August, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

#### **National wi-fi network**

2154. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to create a national Wi-Fi network in the country;

(b) if so, the deadline fixed for the completion of the project; and

(c) the funds allocated for this project and the status of the project as of 31 October, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) approximately 2,50,000 in the country and to provide non-discriminatory access of this network to the Service Providers for provisioning of broadband services in rural areas. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. The project is targeted to completed by March 2019.