

Composition and findings of committee to enquire into award of contract for expansion of national internet backbone

4557. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 107, Unstarred Question 3424, Starred Question 138 and Starred Question 229 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25 November, 2016, 16 December 2016, 28 July, 2017 and 16 March, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) the details of the composition and findings of departmental inquiry committee, constituted in 2016 for inquiry into the ₹300 crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract alongwith purchase of hardware;

(b) whether there is a deliberate delay in action against culprits since 2016;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the details of the time-frame for legal/penal action against erring companies and officials in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No departmental inquiry committee was constituted in the year 2016 for inquiry into the alleged ₹ 300 crore scam in BSNL, in award of contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and in annual maintenance contract alongwith purchase of hardware. In line with due process, reports obtained from BSNL on the allegations, along with relevant records, were examined in the Department of Telecommunications and subsequently referred to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for advice. CVC has sought further clarifications in the matter for which responses along with documents from BSNL have been obtained and are under examination by a Committee constituted in December, 2017 in the Department. Once the examination is completed, the responses to the clarifications sought, will be sent to CVC for advice.

(b) to (d) The Department is adhering to due procedure, and action, if any, will be taken as per advice of CVC.