

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Fixing the price of coal is not in the domain of the Government. Pricing is an operational decision of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Government does not play any role in it. As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), prices of non-coking coal were rationalized with effect from 09.01.2018.

In order to linearize the prices of coal *vis-a-vis* grades of coal, CIL has rationalized its pricing structure. Out of 17 grades of non-coking coal, CIL has decreased the prices of 7 grades, price of 1 grade remained unchanged and moderately increased the prices of 9 grades. The consecutive pricing exercises of May, 2016 and January, 2018 was aimed at rationalizing the price structure, for narrowing down the price difference of unit heat value of higher and lower grades of coal and bringing linearity.

As a result of the above exercise, the projected annual incremental revenue was estimated at ₹ 6421 crores, assuming dispatch of B.E. production (2017-18) of 561.32 Million Tonne of non-coking coal. For the remaining part of the year the incremental revenue was estimated at ₹ 1956 Crores assuming that 33% of the B.E production is achieved as per production target for the remaining part of the fiscal year.

Modernisation of post offices

847. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to modernise/upgrade the post offices in view of the important works being assigned to them *viz.*, issuance of train reservation tickets, Aadhaar enrolment centres, Passport seva, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of post offices in which modernisation/upgradation has already been undertaken; and

(d) the details of post offices in which modernisation/upgradation is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The IT Modernization Project of Department of Posts was approved by the Government in November, 2012. The project involves computerization, modernisation and networking of approximately 1,55,000 post offices in the country, including 1.29 lakhs branch post offices in rural

areas. The scope of the project *inter alia* includes:—

- (i) Establishment of IT Infrastructure.
- (ii) The project of Digital Advancement of Rural Post Offices for a New India (DARPAN).
- (iii) Development of software applications.
- (iv) Training of Postal employees and Gramin Dak Sewaks for the changes at their workplace on account of induction of technology.

Besides above, necessary infrastructure/equipments etc are provided and upgradation of the post offices is carried out on need basis for running different services like Passenger Reservation System (PRS), Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras (POPSKs) and Aadhaar Enrolment/Updation Centres etc.

(c) Computerization of 25,348 post offices has been carried out to provide all services mandated to the Department of Posts. 28,290 offices including Post Offices, Mail Offices and Administrative Offices are connected under Single Wide Area Network (SWAN). Further, 'look and feel' of 3274 post offices has been upgraded so far. Under the IT Modernization Project, till now 23502 post offices have been migrated to Core Banking Solution (CBS) and 53,603 rural branch post offices have been provided DARPAN handheld devices, which is capable of carrying out online postal and financial transactions. There are 332 Railway Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations, 60 Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras (POPSKs) and 2264 Aadhaar Enrolment-cum-Updation Centres functional across the country.

(d) Expansion of the facility of Passenger Reservation System (PRS), Post Office Passport Sewa Kendra (POPSKs) and Aadhaar Enrolment-cum-Updation Centres in Post Offices is an ongoing process and is undertaken considering feasibility and viability of each location in consultation with Nodal Department/Organization.

Penalty on telecom service providers for denying interconnection

848. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the telecom regulator, TRAI, had recommended a hefty penalty of ₹ 3050 crore on three telecom service providers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this was done for the denial of interconnection to another service provider; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?