

- (i) In order to bridge the affordability gap for the persons residing in rural areas and to support Government's efforts towards cashless economy by incentivising digital means, the Authority recommends that scheme under which a reasonable amount of data, say 100MB per month, may be made available to rural subscribers for free.
- (ii) The cost of implementation of the scheme may be met from Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).

(c) and (d) The recommendations were referred back to TRAI for clarifications by DoT *vide* letter dated 25-09-2017. The response from TRAI dated 29-11-2017 has been received and is being examined in DoT.

#### **Use of drones for delivering parcels**

851. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide postal services by using latest technology with support of drones, for delivering mail and parcels at various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with indicating details of study done so far in this regard; and

(c) by when this system will be started in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No Sir. No proposal to use drones for delivery of mail or parcels is under consideration of the Department at present. However, the Department has taken measures such as development of a smart phone based Postman Mobile Application through which, delivery information can be updated on a real time basis and electronic signature of customers can be obtained on the smart phone.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

#### **Interconnectivity regulations for service providers**

852. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued new interconnectivity regulations, mandating service providers to enter into an interconnection agreement on non-discriminatory basis within 30 days of receiving a request from another operator;