

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Department has taken a number of policy initiatives to improve ease of doing business *viz.* Permitting Spectrum sharing and trading, harmonization of spectrum in 1800 Mhz band and 2300 Mhz band, easing spectrum cap norms to help consolidation and efficient utilization of spectrum, easing of Merger and Acquisition (M&A) guidelines and permitting sharing of active and passive infrastructure.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued its recommendations on “Ease of doing business in telecom sector” on 30.11.2017, which *inter alia* includes the following recommendations:—

- (i) Implementation of an online portal for the entire process of SACFA clearance as well as grant of all licenses/approvals.
- (ii) Defined time line, not exceeding 30 days, for granting the import license. The timeline will be declared on portal as well as in the Citizen Charter.
- (iii) Online portal should accept the application and generate the acknowledgement only when all the mandatory field(s) have been filled by the TSP.
- (iv) Applications for Demonstration License and Experimental License should be processed and the license should be granted within a maximum period of 15 and 30 days respectively and the validity period of the same be six months, extendable by another six months.
- (v) Spectrum trading should be permitted in all the access spectrum bands which have been put to auction.
- (vi) For existing service providers, in case of renewal of license or migration of its license to Unified License (UL), the condition of minimum net worth should not be applicable.

The TRAI recommendations are under process in the department.

Setting up of Base Transceiver Stations

1671. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed a target of setting up 25 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in order to enhance mobile connectivity across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such target of setting-up 25 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) has been fixed by the Government.

(b) Not applicable, in view of (a) above.

(c) The Department of Telecommunications grants License Service Area (LSA)-wise licenses to eligible entities for providing access to mobile services to users. For this purpose, the country as a whole is divided into 23 License Service Areas and there are multiple Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in each LSA to provide mobile services to end-users on competitive basis.

As there are different types of technologies deployed across various spectrum bands in the country, the number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) to be rolled out are decided by TSPs based on propagation of radio waves, ever-changing demand pattern for voice as well as data services, and compliance to the licensing conditions including Roll Out Obligations as well as Quality of Services Regulations notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act 1997.

Call drops in the North-eastern region

1672. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether call dropping is rampant in the North-eastern region, especially Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the details of action Government proposes to take thereon; and

(c) whether digital connectivity through mobile networks is very poor in the region, if so, the details thereof and the steps Government intends to take in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Quality of Services benchmarks for telecommunication services are notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act, 1997 at the level of License Service Area (LSA) as a whole.

TRAI has prescribed two performance parameters for assessment of call drop rate for LSA as a whole. For mobile services, the network related key benchmarks include:—