

- (b) whether Government has proposed to install additional mobile towers in Left Wing Extremism-affected districts in Phase-II of the project;
- (c) if so, the number of proposed mobile towers and source of funding;
- (d) whether it is also proposed to change the technology in this regard despite the fact that the technology applied in Phase-I is a success; and
- (e) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Government has installed 1979 new towers which are solar powered out of a total of 2355 mobile tower planned in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected 10 States in the country in LWE Phase-I project with funding from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Project is being implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) through two private vendors and is on 2G technology. Subsidy is to be provided to BSNL towards capital cost and operational expenses for five years. An amount of ₹ 2,137.59 crore has been utilised upto 13-03-2018.

(b) and (c) Government has proposed to install 4072 additional towers in LWE Phase-II in LWE affected districts with funding from USOF.

(d) On account of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and State Governments feedback that there are issues of call congestion, call drops and serviceability of the network, it was directed by MHA that the technology for LWE Phase II project be upgraded and latest technology be installed.

Therefore, 2G and 4G technologies is planned to be deployed in LWE Phase II.

(e) The project is likely to be completed in eighteen months from the date of signing the agreement with the implementing agency.

Assessment of manpower in the Ministry

3266 DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry as a whole, together with all its Departments and public sector organisations under it, has conducted any manpower need assessment for its own functioning and administration, if so, when and the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether, before recruiting new personnel for various positions under the Ministry and allied organisations, option of re-skilling and re-deploying existing human resources, that may be under-utilised, is explored as a matter of practice?

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.

Landline telephone connections of BSNL and MTNL

3267. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline telephone connections of BSNL and MTNL in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of landline telephone connections which were disconnected during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for the disconnections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) State-wise details of number of landline telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Majnanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on 31.01.2018, are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The number of landline telephone connections disconnected/ surrendered during the last three years are as detailed below:—

Financial year	Disconnection/surrender of landline connections	
	BSNL	MTNL.
2014-15	3097437	269388
2015-16	2852231	187732
2016-17	2401893	135416
2017-18 (upto 31.01.2018)	2201870	153707

Following are the possible reasons behind decline/disconnection in landline telephone connections:—

(i) Tendency of shifting to mobile services because of their convenience, utility and availability even while on the move.