

ongoing process in line with growth of network usage and subscriber numbers. The capacities in Radio and Core network have undergone significant increase in recent past.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Network up-gradation and improvement is an ongoing process for each TSP, based on changing traffic volumes, customer needs and market competition.

In order to facilitate improvement in Quality of Services and expansion of telecommunication services, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs as below:-

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands (700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands) in 2016.
- (ii) allowing spectrum sharing, trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilization efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

#### **NPA in telecom sector**

620. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from the telecom sector;
- (b) the losses and income of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether steps have been taken to revive State-run telecoms such as MTNL and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a)  
As informed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from the telecom sector for the last three years are as under:

Bank Group	Year	Gross NPAs (₹ in crore)
Scheduled Commercial Banks	2016-17	2,639
	2017-18	18,298
	2018-19	12,186

(b) Income and losses of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during the last three years are as under:

(₹ in crore)			
Particulars	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Income	3552.46	3116.42	2606.71
Loss before taxes & others	(2945.45)	(2973.45)	(3390.20)

(c) and (d) M/s Deloitte was engaged to facilitate the preparation of the revival/restructuring plan of MTNL. Pursuant to its recommendations and approval of Board, a revival plan for MTNL is under preparation.

### **Implementation of BharatNet project Phase-II**

621. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation status of BharatNet Project Phase-II and estimated date of project completion, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for failure of Government to reach its target of covering 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats under the National Optical Fibre Network by 2016; and

(c) whether there has been a delay in setting up of towers in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and North Eastern States under BharatNet Project Phase-II and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a)  
BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband