

(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

connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. The BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 GPs has been completed. The Union Cabinet on 19.07.2017 approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) GPs in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. The Phase II of the project is under implementation, and a total of 2 lakh GPs are targeted to be completed by March 2020. The State-wise status of BharatNet Phase-II is attached Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) BharatNet is a project of mega nature and the GPs are widely dispersed across the country in rural and remote areas. All out efforts are being made to expeditiously implement the BharatNet project. The delay in the initial implementation of the project was on account of:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project as the work on the project began in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Only one media that is underground OFC to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues.
- (iii) In NER, the GPs are located in widely expansive hilly and remote areas. Further, the monsoon season is also very long.

Since May 2016, with the constitution of the following committees, the issues are being resolved timely:

- (i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, DoT.
- (ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF.
- (iii) State Committee under Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL for resolution of State level issues.

For setting up towers in the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, the Phase-I of the project has been completed and 2,343 towers have been providing mobile services. There has been some delay in the initial implementation of the project primarily due to:

- (i) Delay in finalisation of workable sites by State Government;
- (ii) Changes in sites by the State Government;
- (iii) Security and law and order issues;

- (iv) Progress on tower foundation and erection work was affected due to monsoon season.

***Statement***

*Status of BharatNet Phase-II Project*

Model	No. of GPs	States	Status
State-led (8 States)	65590	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Odisha	Duct laid (km): 19407 OFC laid (km): 9787 Service Ready (GPs): 239
Private Sector (2 States)	7494	Punjab and Bihar	Duct laid (km): 11218 OFC laid (km): 7472 Service Ready (GPs): 607
CPSU-led (10 States)	54111	BSNL: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim PGCIL: Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand	Duct laid (km): 36406 OFC laid (km): 17813 Service Ready (GPs): 358
Satellite Model	6407	NER, Jammu and Kashmir, etc.	Installed: 1018 Service Ready: 828
		Overall progress	Duct laid (km): 67031 OFC laid (km): 35072 Service Ready (GPs) 2,032 (1204 on OFC + 828 on satellite)

**Implementation of 5G technique**

†622. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to implement 5G technique in the country and if so, the time-frame thereof and the preparation made therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.