

Availability of 6000 Mhz of spectrum

2735. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5G Committee had said that about 6000 MHz of spectrum can be made available without delay for the next generation mobile services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said availability of spectrum can lead to India's largest ever spectrum allocation for a service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations dated 01.08.2018 on the "Auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz, 3400-3600 MHz Bands" has considered among other matters, the quantum of spectrum also, which amounts to be more than 6000 MHz, spread across all Licensed Service Areas. In the above mentioned spectrum the next generation mobile services can be provided.

(c) and (d) The above quantum of spectrum is the largest ever to be put for an auction. The actual allotment is subject to the uptake by the bidders in the auction.

Infrastructure projects in North Eastern States

†2736. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infrastructure development related work approved under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme during the last five years and the region-wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of works amongst them that have completed till date and by when the remaining projects are likely to be completed; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the financial expenditure incurred by Government thereon and the amount likely till date to be spent for infrastructure development of States by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The broad objective of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) is to ensure focused development of North East Region by providing financial assistance for projects of (a) physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power, connectivity to enhance tourism and (b) social sector for creation of infrastructure in the areas of primary and secondary sectors of education and health. The detail of projects sanctioned under NESIDS in the North Eastern States is as under:

Sl. No.	State	No.	Cost (₹ in crore)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	312.71
2.	Assam	8	458.00
3.	Manipur	8	191.74
4.	Meghalaya	6	174.81
5.	Mizoram	3	181.97
6.	Nagaland	9	177.75
7.	Sikkim	2	103.31
8.	Tripura	3	164.83
	TOTAL	55	1765.12

(b) The sanctioning of the projects under NESIDS began in F.Y. 2018-19. Normally, the completion period of a project is 2-3 years from the date of sanction, however, it varies from project to project.

(c) The details of funds released under the scheme, State-wise, are given below. Further releases would depend upon the pace of implementation of the projects.

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Funds released
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.02
2.	Assam	73.11
3.	Manipur	55.68
4.	Meghalaya	24.22
5.	Mizoram	71.37
6.	Nagaland	0.90
7.	Sikkim	41.32
8.	Tripura	0.30
TOTAL		278.92

Examining vulnerability of WhatsApp user

2737. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's cyber watchdog CERT-In had asked its emergency response team to examine the vulnerability of the WhatsApp user that could be exploited by a remote attacker to execute an arbitrary code;

(b) whether WhatsApp users' accounts are globally breached by spyware and whether India has expressed concerns over the safety of the app;

(c) whether Government has seen the expose of Chief of Telegram App alleging that WhatsApp exposes its user to serious vulnerabilities; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) It has been reported in media in the end of October 2019 that social media company WhatsApp has filed legal case against an entity called NSO Group for allegedly launching cyber-attack that exploited video calling system of WhatsApp in order to send malware to the mobile devices of number of WhatsApp users. It has also been reported that NSO Group uses spyware called "Pegasus" to steal information from