

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the merger of BSNL and MTNL; and

(c) whether the performance of MTNL will be enhanced by this merger?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.10.2019 approved the revival plan for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) which *inter alia*, includes in principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL. Since MTNL is operating in metros of Delhi and Mumbai and BSNL operates in rest of India, the benefits of merger, *inter-alia* will be in the form of Pan-India footprint and synergy in operations.

Digitalized villages in Karnataka

518. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the villages made digital in the State of Karnataka at present, district-wise;

(b) the funds allocated so far to that State for making the villages digital; and

(c) the details of facilities being provided in those digital villages during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has initiated the Digital Village Pilot Project on 31st October 2018. 700 Gram Panchayats (Village) one each from each district of the State/UT are being covered under the pilot implementation of the project. Gram Panchayats (Village) one each of each of the 30 districts in Karnataka are being covered in the pilot phase. District wise list of the Gram Panchayats/villages is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Digital Village Project of MeitY is being implemented across India through CSC E-Governance Service India Limited under the Digital India Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The tentative funds requirement from MeitY for the State of Karnataka to cover 30 Gram Panchayat/villages is approximately ₹ 297 lakhs.

(c) As of now, the project is provisioning services of - Health (Tele-Health and Tele-Veterinary consultation), Education (BCC/CCC courses of NIELIT, Tally), Financial Inclusion Awareness Program (Insurance, Digital Payment, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) QR Code), Solar panel powered street lights (8 lights per village) and more than 300 Government to Citizens Services (G2C) & B2C Services.

Statement

District-wise list of Gram Panchayats/Villages

Sl. No.	State	District	Block	Village
1.	Karnataka	Vijayapur	Muddebihal	Nelatwad
2.	Karnataka	Haveri	Shiggaon	Hulgur
3.	Karnataka	Gulburga	Aland	Sarasamba
4.	Karnataka	Raichur	Shindhanur	Ubdal U
5.	Karnataka	Mysore	Nanjangud	Doddakowlande
6.	Karnataka	Hassan	Arkalgud	Konanur
7.	Karnataka	Kodagu	Somvarpet	Alur
8.	Karnataka	Mandya	Mandya	Basaralu
9.	Karnataka	Chamarajanagar	Chamarajanagar	Kuderu
10.	Karnataka	Bagalkot	Jamakhandi	Hunnur
11.	Karnataka	Dharwad	Dharwad	Kotur
12.	Karnataka	Belgaum	Athani	Hulagabali
13.	Karnataka	Shimogha	Shimogha	Holaloor
14.	Karnataka	Chikamagalur	Sakarapatana	Hulikere
15.	Karnataka	Dakshinakannada	Belthangadi	Venur
16.	Karnataka	Chikkaballapur	Gowribidnur	Muddalodu
17.	Karnataka	Gadag	Gadag	Beladhadi
18.	Karnataka	Davanagere	Davanagere	Angodu
19.	Karnataka	Bangalore Rural	Devanahalli	Daragajogihalli

Sl. No.	State	District	Block	Village
20.	Karnataka	Chitradurga	Hosadurga	Jankal
21.	Karnataka	Kolar	Kolar	Narasapur
22.	Karnataka	Koppal	Gangavati	Herur
23.	Karnataka	Ramnagar	Magadi	Thaggikuppe
24.	Karnataka	Tumkur	Kunigal	Amruturu
25.	Karnataka	Bellary	Bellary	Kallukamba
26.	Karnataka	Bangalore Urban	Anekal	Hennagara
27.	Karnataka	Udupi	Kundapur	Anagalli
28.	Karnataka	Bidar	Aurad	Muraki
29.	Karnataka	Yadgir	Yadgir	Kalebelagundi
30.	Karnataka	Uttara Kannada	Kumta	Hegde

Spyware attack by Israeli software

519. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the serious breach of privacy of the citizens by an Israeli developed spyware named Pegasus;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the modus operandi of Pegasus; and

(c) whether Government has taken the help of any cyber companies to fight terrorism in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Government had been informed by WhatsApp of a vulnerability affecting some WhatsApp mobile user's devices through a spyware namely Pegasus. According to WhatsApp, this spyware was developed by an Israel based company NSO Group and that it had developed and used Pegasus spyware to attempt to reach mobile phones of a possible number of 1400 users globally that includes 121 users from India.