

- (a) whether there is any proposal to increase nuclear power generation capacity in the country to meet the growing demand in rural areas to better the quality of life;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Total capacity likely to be added over and above 6780 MW in the next five years duly taking into account fairly easy availability of Uranium and Thorium now;
- (c) whether Government proposes to emulate the models of France and China to increase power generation capacity through nuclear energy besides conventional and renewable means; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven (7) reactor units with 5300 MW capacity which are under construction are expected to be completed in the next five years, taking the installed nuclear power capacity from 6780 MW to 12080 MW. In addition, ground preparations are underway for four (4) more units having 3400 MW capacity. The Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction of ten (10) more indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW each to be set up in fleet mode. On their progressive completion by 2031, the capacity will reach 22480 MW (including 500 MW being implemented by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited [BHAVINI]).

(c) and (d) India is pursuing a unique three-stage nuclear power programme based on indigenous technologies to optimally utilise India's nuclear energy resources and ensure long term energy security along with reactors based on foreign cooperation as additionalities. All energy resources conventional, renewable and nuclear are being deployed in an optimal manner to meet the electricity demand of the country in a sustainable manner.

#### **Retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees**

1125. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to change the retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees to 50 instead of the current age of 60, if so, the rationale behind the consideration;

(b) whether the salaries of BSNL and MTNL employees are pending for the months of August and September in 2019, if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the plan of action for the merger of BSNL and MTNL announced by Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) No Sir. The Government is not planning to change the retirement age of BSNL and MTNL employees to 50 instead of the current age of 60.

(b) BSNL has informed that salary to its employees is paid up to the month of September, 2019. MTNL has informed that salary to its employees is paid up to the month of August, 2019. The delay in salary payment is due to financial constraints faced by these two companies.

(c) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.10.2019 also gave in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL. The process of merger will follow the relevant rules/guidelines of Government.

#### **Crisis in telecom sector**

1126. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why revenue generated through non-core activities is being included under the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for the telecom sector despite counter judgements in lower courts and the concerned tribunal being made in the past;

(b) the share of money that will be paid by each operator out of ₹92,642 crore demanded by Government;

(c) whether the amount, if paid, would affect the survival of any operator or bring it under debts; and

(d) the estimated impact this will have on the growth of the sector currently under a debt of about ₹ 4 lakh crore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal Nos. 6328-6399 of 2015 [Union of India Vs. Association Unified Telecom Service Providers of India etc.] pronounced its judgment dated 24.10.2019 wherein the appeals filed by the