

(a) what is the Total number of employees opted for voluntary retirement scheme as on date from BSNL and MTNL;

(b) whether it is a fact that both BSNL and MTNL have saved huge amount in wage bills with VRS;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether both BSNL and MTNL are considering to make recruitment in place of VRS opted employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) 78,569 employees of BSNL and 14,387 employees of MTNL have opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). All VRS optees have retired voluntarily on 31.01.2020.

(b) and (c) After VRS, employee cost of BSNL and MTNL is expected to reduce by approximately 50% and 78% respectively.

(d) and (e) No Sir.

Villages under the National Broadband Mission

2098. LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which are currently covered under National Broadband Mission which targets all the villages to be covered by 2022; and

(b) the details thereof along with the name of villages to be covered digitized under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) National Broadband Mission (NBM) was launched on 17 December 2019 with a vision to enable fast track growth of digital

communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all. The Mission *inter-alia* envisages to provide access to broadband to all the villages of the country by 2022.

Postal Life Insurance policy

2099. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been able to popularise the Postal Life Insurance policy in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Postal Life Insurance policy taken during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) whether Government has taken steps to create awareness among rural and backward population about the advantages of taking Postal Life Insurance policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has been able to popularise the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) in the country. TOTAL number of PLI and RPLI policies issued during the last three years (FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18, FY 2018-19) and the current year (April 2019 to February 2020) are 588457, 767553, 1062558 and 751037 respectively.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government to create awareness among rural and backward population about the advantages of taking PLI and RPLI policy. Promotion and publicity of PLI and RPLI is done by way of advertisement in national and regional newspapers, radio jingle campaigns, outdoor publicity and organisation of awareness camps and melas throughout the country.

NET zero imports in electronics by 2020

2100. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: