(b)   if so, by when the mobile services in other villages are going to be provided;

(c)   whether it is a fact that not even a single village has WiFi facility under BharatNet; and

(d)   if so, the reasons therefor and by when the Ministry is going to install WiFi facilities in all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) As per data collected from the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) field units in 2019, it is estimated that out of 16,158 inhabited villages (as per census 2011 data) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 14,063 inhabited villages are covered by mobile services. Mobile coverage in the remaining villages is being taken up by the Government and Telecom Service Providers in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile Connectivity through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband access technology is to be provided in all the Gram Panchayats. In the BharatNet Phase-I which covers 1.23 lakh GPs (approx.) the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services has been assigned to Government of Rajasthan (for 10,000 GPs in Rajasthan) and rest to CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) including over 1400 GPs in Andhra Pradesh. In the 1407 GPs of BharatNet Phase-II, the provisioning of connectivity over satellite media, along with Wi-Fi services, has been assigned to BSNL. As of February 2020, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 Gram Panchayats (GPs) and out of them, services are being provided in 18,683 GPs.

Conditions of buildings of Post Offices

2884. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that many Post Offices which are providing all services are working in shaky, old and dilapidated buildings in the country;

(b)   whether Government has taken any steps to assess the conditions of the buildings where Post Offices are functioning in the country;

(c)   whether it is also a fact that many Post Offices were closed due to poor and pathetic condition of the buildings in which they were working; and

(d)   whether the closed Post Offices were later on reopened on public demand without carrying out repairs or renovating the buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) No, Sir. Department of Posts, being old one, operates from its old buildings which are maintained regularly. Only five of the postal buildings, so far, have been declared dilapidated, by Postal Civil Wing or Municipal Authority. Presently, Post Offices are not being operated from these buildings.

(b)   Yes, Sir. Conditions of the Post Offices buildings are assessed regularly through Postal Civil Wing on the basis of which periodic maintenance and renovation of Post Offices buildings are carried out by the Department. The buildings taken on rent, are maintained and renovated by their concerned landlords as per the requirement and request of the Department.

(c)   Yes, Sir. The Post Offices operating from the buildings declared dilapidated by Postal Civil Wing or Municipal Authority, have been closed immediately. In case of rented buildings, where the building was found unsuitable or in dilapidated condition, the Post Office has been shifted to a new suitable building.

(d)   No, Sir. No Post Office has been reopened in a building which has been declared dilapidated.

Poor internet facility in remote villages of Madhya Pradesh

2885. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether there is no internet facility in remote villages of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of Government thereto;

(b)   whether internet/broadband speed is very slow in remote areas where internet/ broadband facility is available;

(c)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the efforts made by Government to overcome this problem?