(c) and (d) The country's three stage Nuclear Power Programme emphasises utilization of vast thorium resources available in the country. However, large scale deployment of commercial thorium based reactors would be targeted after a few decades of deployment of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) which constitute the second stage of Nuclear Power Programme. Thorium is not a fissile element and hence its commercial utilisation can be undertaken only after adequate availability of fissile materials like Plutonium or Uranium-233 which is envisioned through deployment of FBRs.

Jobs in telecom sector

2882. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN:
SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India' s telecom sector will create upto 3,00,000 jobs in the next 18 months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the telecom sector has already created over 1,00,000 jobs since the introduction of the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) National Digital Communications Policy-2018, envisions supporting India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services. The policy *inter alia*, envisages creating 40,00,000 (4 million) additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector by 2022.

Keeping in view the need for better connectivity and for increasing the potential for further growth, the Government is implementing programmes to improve connectivity through its flagship project 'BharatNet' which aims at linking each of the 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of India through a vast optical fibre network that in turn would boost various economic activities in the rural sector. This endeavour will open up avenues

for better access for service providers such as telecom operators, cable TV operators, e-commerce companies, etc. to launch new services and in turn aid creation of local employment opportunities. Other flagship schemes of the Government like Digital India, Make-in-India and Smart Cities also are expected to create many employment opportunities in telecom sector.

India's Digital Communications Sector is playing a pivotal role in the growth of Digital Financial Services (DFS), Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS), and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication services being used in the infrastructure sectors of the economy. These services and applications are likely to create a significant number of new jobs in the Indian economy in the near future.

NDCP, 2018 also envisages to harness the power of emerging Next Generation Digital Technologies including 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud and Big Data by promoting Investments, Innovation and IPR, which in turn, is expected to generate employment opportunities.

(c) and (d) 76,359 jobs have been created since 2018-19 in telecom sector:–

The number of jobs directly and indirectly created in telecom sector in 2018-19 and 2019-20 are as under:–

Sl.No.	Year	Direct Jobs	Indirect Jobs	Total
1.	2018-19	15954	24491	40445
2.	2019-20	12470	23444	35914
	TOTAL	28424	47935	76359

It is further submitted that above are the jobs created that have been captured from major Telecom Service Providers to the extent maintained by them.

Mobile services in villages of Andhra Pradesh

2883. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 16,158 villages in Andhra Pradesh, mobile services are provided only in 14,000 villages;