GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4239 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2018

NET NEUTRALITY

4239. DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from subscribers against Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for not following the Net Neutrality guidelines laid down by the TRAI;

(b) whether the Government has found that ISPs are at fault in the said complaints and if so, details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether TRAI has any mechanism to regulate ISPs to ensure net neutrality and if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government intends to make Net Neutrality guidelines made by TRAI legally enforceable and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) TRAI has submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28th November 2017. The recommendations of TRAI are being examined by the Government.

Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country. TRAI has inter-alia, recommended that Internet access services should be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content. TRAI has also recommended an amendment to the license agreements to clarify the principle of unrestricted access given under the appropriate license agreements.
