

(b) how many private operators are currently providing cellular services in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether they have been asked to provide this service to rural people on concessional rates; and

(d) if not, what is the policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Two private operators viz. M/s. Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. and M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd. are presently providing cellular services in the Service Area of Uttar Pradesh (West) and two private operators viz. M/s. Aircel Digilink India Ltd. and M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. are presently providing cellular services in the Service Area of Uttar Pradesh (East). The roll out obligations stipulated in the licence of cellular operators do not provide for mandatory coverage of rural areas.

Investment by Switzerland in IT

1620. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are leading a high powered Indian delegation to Switzerland to attract investment in information technology; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held with the Swiss authorities and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) A high level official and business delegation went to Switzerland in June 2002 in connection with organisation of 'Destination India' event to create awareness about the good investment climate in the country and attracting foreign direct investment in various sectors of the economy including information technology sector.

(b) During the 'Destination India' event in Zurich, the presentations were made highlighting IT opportunities that India has to offer in the fields of IT outsourcing, opening of offshore development centres and the skills of IT professionals. It was also mentioned that grant of the visa should be on a priority basis for the IT workforce.