

(b) whether it is also a fact that the process of withdrawing money illegally from the accounts of account holders is going on continuously;

(c) the number of the accounts of account holders especially those from Bhopal and other towns of Madhya Pradesh from which illegal withdrawal has been made between January, 2005 to December, 2007 alongwith total amount thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the refund of their amount to the account holders;

(e) whether Government intends to computerize post offices; and

(f) if so, by when and to what extent this would help in checking illegal withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The proposal of the Department to set up the Post Bank of India' is at conceptual stage and no details have been finalised.

(b) Instances of irregular/fraudulent withdrawal of money from accounts of account holders have been reported from some post offices.

(c) The Information is given in the Statement. (*See below*)

(d) In cases of amounts defrauded from Saving Bank accounts, the sanction is issued for the restoration of the defrauded amount with interest thereon after satisfying about the bonafide of the claim of the depositor.

(e) and (f) The computerization of Post Offices and Savings Bank operation is an ongoing process. Computerisation will check procedural irregularities.

Statement

Detail of irregular/fraudulent withdrawals from accounts of account holders noticed in Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle during January 2005 to December, 2007

Name of Circle/City	Number of accounts	Amount
Madhya Pradesh Postal Circle (Towns other than Bhopal)	150	25.08 Lakhs
Bhopal	183	16.88 Lakhs

Telephone facility in Orissa

1883. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages that are left out in Orissa where basic telephone facility is not provided till today; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when the telephone facility could be provided to all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There are 47,529 inhabited villages in Orissa as per Census 2001. Out of this, 39,124 villages have been provided

with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. It has been decided to provide the VPT facility in all the remaining 8,405 uncovered villages also with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). As most of the uncovered villages in Orissa are located in remote areas, these uncovered villages will be provided with VPT facility in a period of two years.

Spectrum for 3G

1884. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) total availability of spectrum of 3G with details of bands for auction;
- (b) whether Government plans to hold 3G auctions by itself or proposes to avail of services of an external auctioneer for the purpose; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that maximum revenue value is received by it from the spectrum through auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G Telecom Services, on 01.08.08 and certain amendments on 11.09.08. The spectrum will be granted through a controlled simultaneous ascending e-auction to the successful bidder.

Spectrum shall be auctioned in blocks of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz band. The number of blocks to be auctioned varies subject to availability in different telecom service areas. Details are given in the Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) Government has taken a decision to auction 3G spectrum and also to avail the services of a specialized external auctioneer. M/S N.M. Rothschild and Sons (India) Pvt Ltd, Mumbai has been selected for auctioning of 3G spectrum. The auction will be completed by January 2009.

Statement

Service area wise 3G spectrum available for auction

Sl. No.	Service Area	No of blocks of spectrum available for auction
1	2	3
1.	Delhi (Metro)	2
2.	Mumbai (Metro)	4
3.	Kolkata (Metro)	4
4.	Maharashtra	4
5.	Gujarat	2
6.	Andhra Pradesh	4