

(c) whether CVC has alleged that large scale bungling have been made in the spectrum allocation to private parties; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Such decision has not yet been taken by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). However, the CVC has recently taken up the matter relating to the alleged irregularities in the 2G spectrum allocations for direct investigation and the investigation is under progress.

(d) The Government is waiting for the report of the above said investigation and shall initiate appropriate action based on the report.

Indian Telephone Industries

2115. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently decided to write off several crore losses that the State run Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) has accumulated over the past three years;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the factors responsible for losses in ITI have been assessed and if so, the steps taken to prevent such losses;

(d) whether Government now propose to hive off some units of ITI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. ITI has been incurring losses for many years, as telecommunication manufacturing sector is a highly competitive, research oriented market with rapidly changing technology leading to short product life and high obsolescence rate. To enable ITI to compete in such an environment, it has been decided to take following measures:—

- (i) To set up three Joint Venture/Special Purpose Vehicle by inducting strategic partner(s) for manufacturing new products such as WiMax, IP core network and Gigabit Ethernet Passive Optical Network (GEAPON) at Rae Bareilly, Naini and Bangalore. The Government also provide additional proportionate equity in the Special Purpose Vehicles/Joint Ventures apart from making some of the existing infrastructure with ITI at Rae Bareilly, Naini and Bangalore available for immediate carrying out of such activities *i.e.* land, building and manpower selected by the strategic partner(s).

- (ii) To discharge the liabilities of ITI to the tune of Rs. 2820 crores, to clean up the ITI balance sheet.
- (iii) In principle decision to provide support of Rs. 180 crore to ITI for working capital margin.

Modernization of post offices

2116. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after successful completing modernization of 500 post offices, mostly in rural areas, the Department has now decided to extend this ambitious project to 4500 more post offices across the country offering efficient services to customers through use of modern technology;
- (b) whether Department will spend Rs. 900 crores for upgrading infrastructure of post offices giving them better connectivity through broadband and providing internet facilities to customers; and
- (c) if so, the total number of post offices at present modernized and to what extent it has improved their efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. However Department of Posts is extending the scheme "Project Arrow" to another 500 post offices across the country during 2009-10 with financial outlay of Rs. 65 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under project Arrow, Department of Posts has modernized 500 Post Offices in 2008-09 and is modernizing another 500 Post Offices in 2009-10 with a aim to improve the "Look and Feel" of the post offices and strengthen core business by providing quality services to customers within stipulated time. A significant quality important has been registered in core business after modernization of these post offices for e.g.. Money Order delivery has improved from 76% to 94.5% , Registered Mails delivery from 84% to 97.3%, Speed Post delivery from 89% to 98.2% and Ordinary Mail delivery from 97% to 99.7%.

Independent spectrum regulator

2117. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry wants an independent spectrum regulator to oversee all the related issues like allocation, pricing, monitoring and withdrawal of airwaves;