

Auction of 3G spectrum

2312. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that domestic and foreign telecom companies have not shown much interest in the auction of 3-G spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any changes are to be effected in the auction process for 3-G spectrum; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. Both domestic as well as foreign companies participated in the pre-bid conference held on 16th November, 2009.

The eligibility criteria for telecom companies to participate in the 3G auction are.

Any entity (i) that holds a UAS/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service ("CMTS") licence or (ii) that has previous experience of running 3G telecom services either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary and gives and undertaking to obtain a UAS licence through a New Entrant Nominee UAS License as per the DoT guidelines before starting telecom operations can bid for 3G Spectrum.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. As per the 3G spectrum guidelines issued on 1st August, 2008 and with certain amendments on 11th September, 2008 controlled, simultaneous, ascending e-auction shall be conducted for allotment of the 3G spectrum.

(d) Does not arise.

Rural public phones

2313. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a target had been fixed to provide 66,822 rural public phones during the period of 2005 to 2009, whereas only 54,700 phones have been provided;
- (b) the names of States provided with these phones, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is proposed to make this scheme more comprehensive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Agreement was signed with M/S BSNL in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephone (VPTs) in 66,822 uncovered villages in the country as per Census 1991 with subsidy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.