

### **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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.