

(c) Yes, Sir. For the Eleventh Plan period, a target for opening of 3000 Branch Post Offices by creation of posts was initially proposed for the whole country. Besides, there was another proposal for opening of 500 Branch Post Offices by relocation during the Plan period, out of which, 150 Branch Post offices are proposed to open during 2009-10. The proposal is awaiting Government's approval.

(d) Since the proposal for opening of Branch Offices envisaged creation of new posts, clearance from Ministry of Finance is required, which has not been received as yet. Hence only the target through relocation without extra expenditure has been allotted to the Circles at present.

3G mobile services in Himachal Pradesh

2330. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers to launch 3G mobile services for both prepaid and post-paid subscribers in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the districts which are likely to be covered under 3G services;

(c) whether Government plans to provide 3G services in the remote area of District Kangra and Chamba;

(d) if so, the time by when 3G services are likely to be launched in the State;

(e) whether Government has any scheme for the existing subscribers with 2G services;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh 6 Districts Headquarters *i.e.* Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Solan are already covered with 3G services. Remaining districts headquarters *i.e.* Bilaspur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti, Sirmour and Una have been planned to be covered by BSNL progressively during 2010-11.

(c) At Present BSNL has planned to cover district headquarters. The remote areas of Kangra and Chamba districts will be covered in the future phase of expansion plan subject to techno commercial feasibility.

(d) The 3G services have already launched in Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Dharamshala, Palampur, Nahan, Baddi, Manali and Kevlong cities of Himachal Pradesh.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Existing 2G subscribers may recharge with special tariff vouchers to get 3G services.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.