

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, for last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Although the volume of letters and parcels handled by the Department of Posts has fluctuated during the last five years, unregistered letters and express parcel post have shown an upward trend in 2008-09. Speed Post has shown growth in all the previous five years. However, year-wise, traffic details in respect of letters and parcels for the last five years is as under:

(in lakh pieces)

Year	Letters			Parcels		
	Unregistered	Registered	Speed Post	Unregistered	Registered	Express Parcel Post
2004-05	28901	1668	960	803	233	66
2005-06	25272	1630	1086	719	236	56
2006-07	25650	1714	1286	720	227	56
2007-08	23621	1554	1773	778	227	64
2008-09	23843	1521	2114	749	229	72

**Mobile towers in country**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile towers are being installed by overlooking the norms set by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy for constantly increase in number of mobile towers across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the norms set by Government for installing mobile towers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Mobile towers are being installed by the Service provider based on Siting clearances issued by this Ministry. Service providers also have to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities.

(c) and (d) Government has permitted the sharing of infrastructure by the Licensee to reduce the number of towers with following conditions:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Sharing of "passive" infrastructure.
  - (ii) Provision of point to point bandwidth from their own infrastructure within their Service Area to other Licensed telecom service providers for their own use (resale not to be permitted) is also permitted.
  - (iii) Sharing of switch by the Licensee for providing other licensed services is permitted.
- (e) Service Providers install the mobile towers in a service area to provide mobile phone service as per their business plan and technical requirements. They have to obtain Siting clearances from this Ministry. They also have to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities.

#### **Bidders of spectrum**

757. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the bidders of Spectrum are not able to make payment well in time due to the 5 days condition of his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the reasons for allowing such a short time;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Finance has made some amendments in the external Commercial Borrowing Policy for giving relaxation to the bidders; and
- (d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) As per the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published on 25th February, 2010 by Department of Telecommunications for auction of 3G and BWA spectrum, payment of the successful bid amount should be made within 10 calendar days of the close of the relevant Auction.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The amount involved is huge and the same has to be raised within a limited period of time, the bidders may find it difficult to raise External Commercial Borrowing (ECB). Therefore, it has been decided that the fee for spectrum allocation may be met out of Rupee resources by successful bidders, to be refinanced with a long term ECB subject to:

- (i) The ECB should be raised within 12 months from the date of payment of the final installment to the Government;
- (ii) The authorized Dealers should monitor the end-use of funds;
- (iii) Domestic banks will not be permitted to provide any guarantee; and
- (iv) All other conditions of ECB, such as eligible borrower, recognized lender, all-in-cost, average maturity, etc. should be complied with.