ix.   Disinvest 30% in stages at appropriate time and use 20% of the proceed for VRS of employees, expansion and operation and 10% may be returned to Government.

x.   Explore new market venues of business.

xi.   Give emphasis on broadband and provide 30 million broadband connections in next three years.

xii.   Unbundle local loop for public and private companies.

xiii.   Use BSNL strength in rural areas and share active and passive infrastructure.

xiv.   Use power of I.T. for re-engineering its systems and process in finance, billing, human resource, customer services, network management, sales marketing project management and training etc.

xv.   Create two separate subsidies; one for tower related infrastructure and other for development of land bank and other real estates.

xvi.   Establish a BSNL Venture Fund for acquiring technology companies to encourage local innovation and manufacturing.

4G spectrum

769. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that some of the countries have already been providing 4G spectrum services to their customers;

(b)   if so, the reasons that in spite of having 50 crore subscriber base in our country, we are not able to provide even 3G services to our customers;

(c)   whether it is a fact that the EGoM met recently to finalize the auctioning of the 3G spectrum;

(d)   if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(e)   by when the 3G is going to be auctioned and services are provided to the customers?

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

(b)   In India, public sector companies Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have already started providing 3G services. However, the private sector service providers will be able to provide 3G services only after the 3G radio, spectrum is auctioned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The EGoM has met on 12th January, 2010 to resolve some issues related to the availability of 3G spectrum in different service areas. The DoT has issued the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) on 25th February, 2010 based on the directions from EGoM.

(e)   As per the timetable given in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) published on 25th February, 2010 by Department of Telecommunications, 3G Auction is scheduled to start on 9th April, 2010 and commercial launch of 3G services by successful bidders is permitted with effect from 1st September, 2010.

Telephone facilities in Andhra Pradesh

770. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether all villages of Andhra Pradesh have been connected with telephone facilities;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   if not, by when telephone facilities would be provided to villages?

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

(b) and (c) Out of 26,613 inhabited villages as per Census 2001, 23,991 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility as on January, 2010 in the State of Andhra Pradesh, The remaining uncovered villages will be provided with VPT facility in phased manner by February, 2011.

Basis of financial assistance to cultural organization

†771. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
         SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pieased to state:

(a)   the names of cultural organizations and the assistance provided to them during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(b)   names of projects/programmes of these organizations on whose basis this was decided; and

(c)   the total number of applications received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Digitalisation of Kerala Sahitya Akademy

772. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has received any project proposal from the Government of Kerala to set up an online Digital Library in the Kerala Sahitya Akademy;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.