

Tenders invited by BSNL

†4483. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tenders were invited by BSNL to lay lines of mobile network;
- (b) whether it is a fact that BSNL has given contract to a Chinese company to lay mobile network of two and half crore lines;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that IB and RAW had objected the award of contract to Chinese company;
- (d) whether apart from China, domestic companies had also filed tender forms, if so, the names thereof; and
- (e) the total cost of this contract given to said Chinese company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the tenders for procurement of 93 million lines for GSM equipment was floated by the four zones of BSNL on 01.05.2008. The tender was floated for 25 million lines each by NORTH, WEST and SOUTH zones and for 18 million lines by the EAST zone.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs in October 2008, raised security concern over the participation of foreign companies especially by companies operating from or controlled by China in the above said tender floated by BSNL. The issue was examined by a Committee. Based on the recommendation of the Committee, security guidelines have been issued by Department of Telecommunications.

(d) Following domestic companies also filed tender forms — M/s Spanco, M/s Acme Tele Power, M/s GTL, M/s Aster Tele Services, M/s Icomm, M/s TVS Interconnect Systems, M/s Teracom Ltd., M/s KEC International, M/s Sujana Towers, M/s Nextra Telecom, M/s Prithvi Information, M/s Satyam Computers, M/s Tata Consultancy, M/s Wipro, M/s Infosys, M/s Tech Mahindra, M/s Sai Info Systems and M/s HCL for different parts of the tender.

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

Arrest of Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra

4484. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra and Goa has been arrested by the CBI in last week of February, who allegedly accepted bribe of crores of rupees for granting a portion of Government land to a builder meant for a post office in Thane;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that two of his associates were also arrested with foreign currency and costly laptops;

(c) whether CBI found huge money deposited in his name in 22 bank accounts and he owns properties in various areas of NCR regions of Delhi; and

(d) the action Government proposed to take against the arrested persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) It is a fact that the Chief Postmaster General of Maharashtra and Goa Circle, Shri M. S. Bali had been arrested by the CBI on 25.02.2010.

(b) As per FIR, two private persons were also arrested.

(c) No such information is available with the Department.

(d) Shri Bali is under suspension by this Department for being detained in custody for more than 48 hours.

Objections to implement mobile number portability

4485. SHRI RAJIV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been objections from security agencies to implement Mobile Number Portability, on account of potential misuse by anti-national elements;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to incorporate appropriate safeguards so as to make the mechanism foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the main security concerns of the Security Agencies with regard to implementation of Mobile Number Portability are seamless lawful interception of messages/call related information in case the ported number is already under lawful interception.

(c) The views of Ministry of Home Affairs on porting process for numbers under lawful interception has been received. Necessary instructions regarding porting process for numbers under lawful interception shall be issued in due course.

Distribution of spectrum

4486. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is initiating an action plan to equally distribute spectrum in both 1800 MHz band and 900 MHz band in order to have a level playing field for the operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and