

- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the time by which the said Centre would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Funds to the extent of Rs. 4.62 crore is allocated and an expenditure of Rs. 30.00 lakh has been incurred so far.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Equipments have been purchased, laboratory has been constructed, and Junior Research Fellows have been recruited for this centre. Work is progressing well.

(e) The Centre would be fully operational by the end of 2010.

Nuclear power generation by NTPC-NPCIL joint venture

4467. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to plan to allocate a site for the development of a new capacity to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)-National Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) joint venture for entering into nuclear power generation business;

(b) if so, whether sites have already been identified and by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) if so, the other sites which are being allotted to develop nuclear capacity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Agreement between few PSUs for formation of Joint Venture Company (JVC) has been signed on 27.04.2010. Further action for incorporation of JVC and constitution of its management board will follow. The JVC will decide type of reactor to be set up before a decision on allocation of a site for proposed JVC is taken.

(c) The Government has accorded 'in principle' approval for six greenfield sites in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal for locating future nuclear power plants.

Tender to procure GSM lines

4468. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government unilaterally halved the tender to procure GSM lines to 23 million from 45.5 million;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this led to the decline of BSNL market share in mobile segment;

(d) whether Government undertook any inquiry to find out the reasons for halving the tender;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, a period of about one and half year had elapsed from the date of the floating of the tender and finalization of the same and during this period certain significant changes in the telecom service sector had taken place, including technological changes, launching of initiative of sharing of infrastructure by the operators and applicability of USO fund subsidy to mobile services. Accordingly, it was decided by BSNL Board to procure 22.75 million GSM capacity instead of 45.5 million.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) BSNL was asked to comment on the Central Vigilance Commission's letter wherein question has been raised on reducing the procurement quantity under Phase V tender.

(e) and (f) BSNL has explained that about one and half year had elapsed from the date of the floating of the tender and finalization of the same and during this period, certain significant changes in the telecom service sector had taken place, including technological changes, launching of initiative of sharing of infrastructure by the operators and applicability of USO fund subsidy to mobile services.

Contract to Chinese company

4469. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any directions to avoid contracts of sensitive works to Chinese companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that BSNL has given a 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) the officials who played vital role in awarding the said contract; and

(e) whether the role of concerned officers has been investigated by Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, in the interest of national security, the