

introduced Point of Presence for New Pension Scheme in selected post offices in association with Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

(ii) It has introduced International Money Transfer in collaboration with Western Union Financial Services for receiving remittance from 205 countries on a real time basis.

(iii) Department has tied-up with Ministry of Railways for reservation of Railway tickets from identified post offices.

(iv) To meet international requirements a joint outward International Express Service called "World Net Express" in association with M/s Deutsche Post has been started. World Net Express is a premium Express Service offering dedicated website and tracking of articles *via* internet, telephone and SMS.

(v) "MO Videsh" has been introduced for inward and outward international remittances from India Post to more than 50 Member countries worldwide has been started. International Flat Rate Boxes as a simple customized solution for outward International Parcel in order to attract parcel market to India has been introduced.

#### **Bid for Indian Telephone Industry**

2929. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has failed to get any bid for Indian Telephone Industry despite initial interest shown by some foreign manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ITI has also proposed to form three joint ventures in which it could have had 26-49 per cent stake each; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (d) The Government on 23.02.2009 had accorded "in principal" approval for formation of three joint venture companies (JVC) by ITI for the following products:

Sl. No.	Product	Location of JVC
1.	WI-MAX Base Station Trans Receiver Equipments and associated Customer Premises Equipments	Rae Bareli
2.	GPON/GEAPON and Optical Transmission Equipments	Naini
3.	IP Core Systems	Bangalore

Accordingly, ITI released RFQ cum RFP (Request for Qualification cum Request for Proposal) on 30.10.2009 calling bids from strategic partners. The Successful Bidder shall have controlling stake in the SPV/JVC with equity participation not less than 51% and up to 74%. The balance equity participation will be by ITI. The last date for submission of bids was 09.02.2010. Since no bids were received by the stipulated date, the last date for submission of bids was extended till 05.04.2010 on the request of two prospective bidders. However, even after extending the last date for submission of bids, no bids were received by ITI.

No foreign manufacturer had showed any interest at any time in the joint venture.

#### **Broadband Services in J&K**

2930. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the comparatively poorer quality of services provided by different telecom companies including BSNL in J&K;

(b) whether any steps have been taken for expansion by all these networks to rid different routes of acute congestion; and

(c) by when 3G and high speed Broadband service will be available to consumers in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of quality of service through quarterly performance monitoring reports provided by the broadband service providers against the Quality of Service benchmarks notified by TRAI through regulation on 'Quality of Service of Broadband Service Regulation 2006 dated 6th October 2006. As per TRAI, only Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing broadband services in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The quarterly performance monitoring report submitted by BSNL, for the quarter ending December, 2009, reveals that BSNL has met the benchmark for all the parameters in Jammu & Kashmir service area except for parameter service provisioning (percentage of connection provided within 15 days of registration of demand). The performance monitoring report of quality of service for Broadband services for quarter ending December 2009 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The Government has issued the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) for auction of 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum on 25/02/2010. As per NIA, allocation of 3G and BWA spectrum for all telecom service areas including J&K are determined through an online ascending e-auction mechanism.

The 3G auction has started on 9th April 2010. The winners of 3G auction shall be allowed to utilize the spectrum for commercial operation only from 1st September, 2010 as per NIA. The BWA auction shall begin two days from the day of close of the 3G auction.