

Corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. These include:-

- (i) Issue of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;
- (ii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;
- (iii) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance as a preventive measure;
- (iv) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC;
- (v) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities; similar instructions have been issued by the Central Government on 16th June 2009 advising the State Governments to adopt Integrity Pact in major procurements;
- (vi) India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- (vii) Introduction of e-Governance and simplification of procedures and systems;
- (viii) Issue of Citizen Charters.

Foreign telecom companies

†3711. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many foreign telecom companies want to enter and invest in India;
- (b) if so, whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is planning to make these foreign companies its strategic partner;
- (c) if so, whether the far-reaching impact on country upon arrival of these companies has been considered and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether arrival of foreign companies in the field of communications is beneficial to the country?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b), above.

(d) The Telecom sector requires huge capital investment for roll out of services, induction of new technology and improvement of quality of telecom service Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) brings in capital and technology, which are essential for qualitative and quantitative growth of the communications sector.

Bidding of 3G spectrum

†3712. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dispute of bidding 3G spectrum is still unsolved but the process of bidding 4G services has been initiated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the schedule indicated in the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) issued on 25/2/2010, the auction of 3G spectrum has started on 9/4/2010.

TRAI has issued only a pre-consultation paper in February, 2010 to identify the issues involved in introduction of 4G such as allocation & pricing of spectrum for such services and issues related to licensing. Various stakeholders have given their views/comments at the pre-consultation stage which are being analysed by TRAI for preparation of consultation paper.

Rajasthan Gram Panchayat with broadband connectivity

3713. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in State of Rajasthan provided with broadband connectivity;

(b) by when all the Gram Panchayats would be provided with broadband connectivity;

(c) whether it is a fact that Universal Service Obligation Fund also planned to provide some funds for broadband connectivity in villages; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.