

(c) whether Government has any proposal to expand the capacity of those telephone exchanges in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which is likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, there is no capacity constraint in any of the exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the country including Himachal Pradesh.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Role of Department of Posts for UIDAI

3697. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Department of Posts has offered its help for the implementation of Unique Identification Database Authority of India (UIDAI) in verifying the data of citizens;

(b) whether the Department of Posts has a huge database of more than 20 crore saving bank account holders all over the country that would come handy in the citizen verification process of the UIDAI in rural areas; and

(c) if so, Government's response in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. However, Department of Posts has offered to be a logistics partner for Unique Identification Database Authority of India (UIDAI).

(b) Yes, Sir. Department has a database of 20.64 crore account as on 31.3.2009 under the Post Office Saving Bank Scheme. The Department of Posts is not aware of the requirement of UIDAI in this matter.

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

Disinvestment in Telecom PSU

3698. SHRI A ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Disinvestment has written to Department of Telecommunications seeking to know the listing plan for 54 BSNL and keen to see at least 10 per cent disinvestment of Government stake in the company in the coming fiscal year;

(b) whether the top level committee has suggested 30 per cent disinvestment in the Telecom PSU and BSNL board also agreed to go for 30 per cent disinvestment in two/three stages, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes Sir. BSNL Board has also agreed to the proposal of 10 per cent disinvestment.

(b) and (c) The Government constituted an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda in January 2010 to review the performance of BSNL and suggest measures for improving overall performance of the company. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which includes recommendation for disinvestments of 30% of equity shareholding of BSNL in stages at the appropriate time, say after fundamental changes have been made to enhance enterprise value. The recommendations of Pitroda Committee were deliberated in the 126th Meeting of BSNL Board on 10.03.2010 and BSNL Board reiterated the disinvestment of 10 per cent stake.

Surrender of licence by Telecom Operators

3699. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for surrender of licence and refund of entry fee paid by the telecom operators in case a telecom operator wishes to opt out of certain circles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any company has opted for surrender of licence in the past and the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, Unified Access Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licence conditions *inter-alia* stipulates that "LICENSEE may surrender the LICENCE, by giving notice of at least 60 Calendar days in advance. In that case it shall also notify all its customer of consequential withdrawal of SERVICE by sending a 30 Calendar days notice to each of them. The LICENSEE shall pay all fees payable by it till the date on which the surrender of the LICENCE becomes effective. The effective date of surrender of Licence will be 60 Calendar days counted from the date of receipt of such notice by the licensor."