

(c) STD/ISD/PCO franchisee of BSNL is responsible for the hiring/ furnishing of premises, construction of booth, procurement of telephone instrument, PCO monitor etc. Only telephone line is provided by BSNL. No separate fund is earmarked for PCO lines, as these are part of the project for direct exchange lines.

**Spectrum allocation to new terrestrial services**

2897. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Space in a communication to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently stated that it was using its orbits spectrum resources to provide various services such as Telecommunications, Radio, Village Resources Centre and this must be taken into account before making any Spectrum allocation to new terrestrial services and applications in frequency bands that are already being used by Indian satellite systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Department of Telecommunications thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Space (DoS) in their communication to TRAI in response to TRAI's Consultation Paper on "Allocation and pricing of spectrum for 3G services and Broadband Wireless Access" has stated, among others, that in the telecom and broadcasting area, INSAT satellite system consisting of many satellites, cater to the country's need in many disciplines, like telecommunication to fixed and mobile users, radio, TV (including DTH, newsgathering, TV distribution), Tele-education, Telemedicine. Village Resource Centre (e-governance), that have evolve over a period of time. According to DoS, it is very much necessary to protect these existing national assets and to ensure continued availability of the spectrum to sustain and grow these nationally important INSAT services through planned satellite missions in the coming years. DoS further stated that any spectrum allocations to new terrestrial services/applications, in frequency bands which are already being used by Indian satellite systems should take into account the above reality.

(c) TRAI would consider the comments given by various stakeholders

including those from DoS while finalizing their recommendations which are awaited.

**Issue of statements through post offices to senior citizens**

2898. SHRIHARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the senior citizens who have opened their accounts under Senior Citizen Saving Schemes have to wait for hours together in a long queue for their statements making their life miserable and tiresome on due dates;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to issue such statements through the various post offices desired by them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) There is no provision of issue of statements under Senior Citizen Savings Schemes— 2005 in the Post Offices. However, the depositor has the option to get the quarterly interest credited to his/her savings account in the same post office in which case entries are required to be done in the passbook only once in a year.

**Conversion of postal department into commercial department**

†2899. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish the postal department commercially;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the role of Government officials in such move and Government's view in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so that postal department can cash maximum income alongwith fulfilling the social responsibilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not considering to establish postal department (xxnmercially).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.