

(b) (i) In the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Department has an approved project for Computerization & Networking of post offices (up to double handed level). Under this project 12604 number of post offices have been computerized and the process for computerization of the rest of the double handed post offices and networking them is under progress. The Department has proposed its IT Project Phase-II with an overall outlay of Rs. 1877.2 crores to be incurred in the FY 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 (upto September 2012). The project envisages building up of a comprehensive IT solution for all the operations in a Post Office, Postal, Banking, Insurance, Retail operations and the required infrastructure for the computerization and networking of all the post offices in the country.

(ii) The Department has also launched Project Arrow in identified post offices for upgrading the "core operational areas and "look and feel" of Post Offices for modernization of Post Office in the country. It is an ongoing scheme. So far 1,000 Post Offices from 22 Postal Circles have been upgraded and modernized under the scheme. Another 510 post offices across the country are being covered in 2010-11.

(c) So far Rs. 330.47 crores has been utilized for computerization of 12604 post offices and funds to the extent of Rs. 146 crores has been utilized for covering post offices under Project Arrow and utilized to full extent. During 2010-11 Rs. 84 crores has been earmarked for Project Arrow, in mostly rural and semi-urban areas. Total outlay proposed Department's IT project Phase-II is Rs. 1877.2 Crores. Rural ICT solution is proposed for electronically linking of all rural post offices under the project proposal. The solution would provide for supply of appropriate rural ICT devices, rural connectivity and applications to rural population for services including postal, saving bank, postal life insurance and other related operations including MGNREGA wage distribution.

(d) The IT Project Phase-II is expected to be completed by September 2012. Subject to availability of Plan Funds, departmental post offices will be covered under Project Arrow in a phased manner.

2G Spectrum Policy

†1957. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether during first term of UPA Government 2G spectrum was allocated to all the new companies on first come first get basis in spite of auctioning the same;
- (b) the total cost that was fixed for providing services of 2G spectrum across the country;
- (c) whether these new companies sold their share of spectrum after getting the same in thousands crores of rupees without rolling the services; and
- (d) if so, whether any big scam or incident has come to light and the estimated amount therefore, whether CBI and CAG have been requested to make an estimate of this scam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) 2G spectrum has not been auctioned in the country, 2G spectrum is only allotted to the Telecom licensees as per the licensing conditions after they sign the service license agreement on first come first served basis, subject to availability of spectrum. No upfront charges are levied for allotment spectrum only spectrum usage charges on percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue are being levied.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Share of spectrum was never sold. However, On allegation of irregularities in the award of UASL Licenses, CBI had registered a case on 21st October 2009 and conducted a search on 22.10.2009 in some of offices of DOT and taken custody of certain files relating policy, issuance of UAS License and spectrum etc. case is still under investigation by CBI.

3G and WI-Max auction

1958. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recent 3G and Wi-Max auction in the country has generated interest across the world;
- (b) if so, whether Government is now going to review the 2G auction earlier; and