

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) were assigned one block of 20 MHz spectrum for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) in 2008. Further, Government issued guidelines for allotment of spectrum through e-auction and auctioned 2 blocks of spectrum each of 20 MHz, for BWA to private companies in 2010. All successful bidders are required to meet the specified roll-out obligation for BWA spectrum within five years of the effective date. The auction has been completed and total revenue of Rs. 38543.31 crores has been generated through the auction of BWA spectrum and allotment of BWA spectrum to BSNL and MTNL.

The present details of the WiMax connectivity in the country are as below :—

(i) **Rural Phase I Project of BSNL**

BSNL has deployed 827 base station under Phase-I project using WiMax (wireless broadband technology) to cover 1000 Rural Block HQ of the country. Approximately 10279 number of Rural CSCs and 14591 village panchayats have coverage through Rural Project.

(ii) **Urban Project of BSNL**

BSNL has deployed 348 base stations to provide WiMax services in the urban areas of Kerala Circle. BSNL has also deployed 335 base stations to provide WiMax services in urban areas of Punjab Circle. 25 base stations in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra each and 33 base stations in Gujarat Circle have been deployed by BSNL with franchises model of revenue sharing.

National e-governance plan

3211. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the national e-governance plan would be provided with internet connection by mid 2011;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several thousands of BSNL exchanges have already been upgraded for providing wireless connections to CSCs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per the Common Service Centres (CSC) Scheme, connectivity is to be arranged by Service Centre Agencies (SCAs). However, Department of Information Technology (DIT) has supported BSNL with part funding for provisioning of broadband connectivity to all the CSCs. BSNL plans to provide connectivity for all CSCs by June, 2011.

(c) and (d) BSNL has upgraded 28000 rural exchanges for providing connectivity to the CSCs. Besides approx. 1000 BSNL Towers have also been upgraded to provide wireless (WiMAX) Connectivity.

Mobile phone services on highways in Madhya Pradesh

†3212. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had announced that all the national highways passing through Madhya Pradesh would be provided with mobile phone services but despite of this announcement most of the national highways have yet not been provided with this facility;

(b) the details of national highways in Madhya Pradesh which could not be provided with this facility;

(c) whether despite of earlier announcement of Government the said mobile phone services are not made available in the entire route of national highway number 69 which goes from Obedullahganj to Nagpur; and

(d) if so, by when Government would be in a position to provide this facility on the said national highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) license condition, *inter-alia*, provides that atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. Coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered 57,292 km. out of 62,643 km. of national highway with mobile services in its area of operation as on 31.07.2010.

(b) In Madhya Pradesh (MP), 4,900 km. out of 5,176 km. national highway *i.e.* 94.66% has been covered by BSNL with mobile service as on 31.07.2010.

(c) and (d) The status of mobile coverage on national highway number 69 by BSNL from Obedullahganj to Nagpur in the area falling in Madhya Pradesh is given in the Statement (See below). The remaining length of 43 km. is forest area will be covered by BSNL in due course after getting clearance from forest department.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.