

3G and BWA Spectrum

429. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has earned more than Rs. 1 lakh crore from the auction of 3G and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum licenced to limited operators;

(b) whether DoT will make available 3G spectrum to successful bidders by 1st September, 2010 as stipulated earlier;

(c) how much 3G and BWA spectrum is going to be made available during 2010, 2011 and 2012; and

(d) in what manner and by when Government plans to allot this 3G and BWA spectrum to operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has earned Rs.67718.95 crores through auction of 3G spectrum & Rs. 38543.31 crores through the auction of BWA spectrum, a total of Rs. 106262.26 Crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) During 2010, blocks each of (5+5) MHz in the frequency band 1920-1980/2110-2170 MHz have been auctioned for 3 G including BSNL/MTNL and shall be allotted to operators by 1st September, 2010. As regards BWA 3 blocks each of 20 MHz, two in frequency band 2.3 -2.4 GHz & one block in frequency band 2.5-2.69 GHz have been auctioned including BSNL/MTNL and shall be allotted on receipt of application.

Additional spectrum shall be made available for 3G & BWA services subject to availability and the spectrum shall be allotted as per recommendations of TRAI.

Upgradation of post offices

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

(a) whether the target of upgrading post offices across the country has since been achieved;

(b) if so, the number of post offices upgraded during 2009-10 and upto June, 2010;

(c) whether Government proposes to make savings schemes of post offices an attractive and investor friendly;