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| 5. | S Tel Pvt. Ltd. |
| 6. | Sistema Shyam Tele Service Ltd. |
| 7. | Spice Communications Ltd. |
| 8. | Tata Teleservices Ltd. |
| 9. | Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 10. | Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 11. | Unitech Wireless (Kolkata) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 12. | Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 13. | Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 14. | Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 15. | Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 16. | Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd. |
| 17. | Videocon Telecommunications Ltd. |

Expansion of communication system

†2679. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the aim of Government was expansion of communication system while allocating 2G spectrum;

(b) if so, whether the consent of Prime Minister was taken in this policy decision;

(c) if so, the time when the consent of Prime Minister was taken; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the allocation of 2G spectrum in 2008 was made on the basis of licence fees fixed in 2001 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir. Since introduction of 2G services during mid nineties, as per the policy decision taken at that time, start-up/initial 2G spectrum is being allotted to Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Licence (UASL) holders as per the conditions/provisions of CMTSL/UASL, subject to availability. Additional spectrum beyond initial spectrum is being allotted as per the guidelines/orders/criteria in force at the time of such allotments.

The UAS licencing regime was introduced from November, 2003 with the approval of the Union Cabinet. Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and this decision of the Government, UAS Licences were being granted on First-Come-First-Served (FCFS) basis since November, 2003 at the entry fee the 4th CMTS licence awarded in 2001. In service areas where there was no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 was adopted. As regards allocation of 2G spectrum in 2008, there was no change in policy.

Information technology hubs

2680. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans to provide information technology hubs and easy broad way connections in the rural areas of Uttarakhand, North Eastern States including Sikkim and Laddakh;

(b) the progress in providing fool proof, convenient and easily adoptable office in Hindi like MS Office;

(c) in software and hardware how much help we are providing to China, the quantum and the nature of the help; and

(d) whether we are also providing such a help to Baltic and Nordic countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Under National e-Governance Plan, the Government has sanctioned the scheme of Common Service Centres (CSCs) under which 1,00,000 Kiosks are being established in rural areas. These Kiosks are equipped with computers, connectivity and trained and incentivized manpower. These Centres provide public services alongwith facilities of Internet and e-mail. The scheme is being implemented on Public Private Partnership model with Government of India providing revenue viability gap funding. Till 31st October, 2010, about 85,000 CSCs have been established in the rural areas of the country including Uttarakhand, North-Eastern States Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir, State details are enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) The Bharateeya Open Office in Hindi is available for free download at <http://www.ildc.in>.