

#### **Computerization of post offices**

332. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry with an estimated cost of Rs. 1800 crore is going to computerize all the post offices in the country by 2012;

(b) if so, the details of the roadmap prepared by it; and

(c) the details of post offices included in Project Arrow with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) The Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 1877.2 Crores for the IT Modernization project of Department of Posts to be implemented in a phased manner by September, 2012, subject to availability of funds. The project includes computerization, development of software for various operations of Department of Posts, commissioning of data centre, provision of network connectivity and implementation of Rural technology solution.

(c) The details of Post Offices included under Project Arrow, including those of Andhra Pradesh is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 221 Annexure No.3]

#### **4G Services**

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

(a) the details of facilities available in the existing 2G spectrum services and the shortly introduced 3G services;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has already started the spadework on 4G spectrum in the country;

(c) whether TRAI has submitted any recommendations on 4G spectrum;

(d) if so, the details of (b) and (c) above; and

(e) the details of countries in the world which have already started 4G services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) 2G services are primarily for voice and low speed data services. 3G services provide converged data, internet and multimedia services supported by a high data rate including voice services provided by 2G services.

(b) to (d) TRAI has only issued pre-consultation paper to identify the issues involved in introduction of 4G and not submitted any recommendation on 4G spectrum.

(e) As per the available information, LTE (4G) has been deployed in Austria, Norway, Poland, Sweden, USA and Uzbekistan.

#### **Distribution of insurance products by post offices**

334. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices have been permitted to distribute insurance products and act as a corporate agent of insurance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have granted permission for whole country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No such communication has been received from IRDA. However, a circular from the IRDA addressed to CEOs of all insurers titled "Separate framework to sanction Corporate Agency Licence to Department of Posts (India Post)" *vide* No. IRDA/CAGTS/CIR/LCE/165/10/2010 dated 14.10.2010 is on the website of IRDA.

(b) to (d) The copy of the circular is enclosed as a Statement.