

Introduction of MNP

338. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the date by which number portability in mobile industry is expected to come into force;
- (b) the reasons of delay in making aforesaid service available to the customers;
- (c) whether any service providers are opposed to providing number portability to customers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (d) Sir, the whole network (all Access Service Providers in all service areas and International Long Distance Operators (ILDOs) in the country have to be ready and tested before the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service is implemented. Keeping the complexity and enormity of the testing involved before MNP is implemented and keeping in view the status of implementation by various operators, in June 2010, Government set the time line for implementation of MNP to 31st October 2010. The status has been reviewed. The networks are now technically ready for launch of MNP. To facilitate an orderly and reliable introduction of MNP services, a suitable migration plan has been evolved in consultation with Mobile Service Providers. It has been decided that the countrywide launch of MNP services will start from Haryana Licensed Service Area (LSA) on 25th November 2010. MNP Service in rest of the service areas across the country will be implemented subsequent to the launch in Haryana. None of the Mobile Service Providers are opposed to provide Mobile Number Probability to customers.

Losses in 2G spectrum scam

339. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has recently stated that the 2G spectrum scam caused a loss of Rs. 1.40 lakh crore to the nation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Ministry carried out the entire process of spectrum allocation in an arbitrary manner ignoring the advice of other Ministries;

(c) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed by Government on such huge losses in spectrum allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) DoT has not received any such report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG).

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Status of internet connectivity in rural areas

340. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 84 per cent of villages in 7 States are not aware of the internet's existence;

(b) the current status of internet connectivity in rural areas; and

(c) the steps, if any, Government is taking to increase rural internet awareness and promote internet usage in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The current status of internet connectivity in rural areas is as follows:

- (i) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing subsidy support under Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme in rural and remote areas for providing Broadband services through which internet connectivity can be accessed by the rural customers. Under this scheme, a total of 2, 10, 902 Broadband connections have been provided.
- (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has made more than 24,000 rural exchanges as Broadband enabled.
- (iii) BSNL has installed around 1000 WiMax towers in rural areas to extend the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) coverage.