

[23 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

premium products, value additions such as pre-mailing facilities, pick up services, Book Now Pay Later Scheme, Monthly Accounting, Discount etc. have been offered. Customised business packages to suit the needs of corporate customers/service providers are provided. Web-based technology has been inducted in Speed Post Centres and post offices for providing on-line track and trace (Speednet) system for tracking of Speed Post articles. Various web-based services such as e-bill post for collection of bills at the post office counter, and e-post for delivery of e-mail messages to postal addresses have been introduced. Infrastructure and retail network post offices have been offered to the customers on commercial basis for promotion and sale of their products and collection of bills. Sustained publicity and promotion of premium products and services is being done to make the premium products and services visible to the public. Market surveys are being conducted to analyse the market and environment to make the products more competitive and user friendly.

2. Financial products such as International Money Transfer with association of Western Union Financial Services International, distribution of Mutual Funds and Bonds and Pension products for various banks, electronic fund transfer through VSAT network of the Department to facilitate end to end fund transfer and warrant payment schemes have been introduced.

3. Various policy initiatives under Tenth Five Year Plan have been taken to increase the revenue, reduce costs, improve productivity, efficiency and quality of postal services to make them more competitive and financially viable. These initiatives include introduction of new products and services, diversification and optimal utilization of the network and resources.

Installation of Mobile Telephone Tower in Jangla Telephone Exchange

2241. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Mobile Telephone Tower in Jangla Telephone Centre in Distt. Shimla for the benefits of telephone

subscribers of the said Telephone Exchange as the present Mobile Telephone Tower at Rohor does not cover the whole area completely;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned a cellular mobile telephone tower at Khasdhar (Chirgaon) in the year 2005, which is expected to provide mobile coverage to Jangla in District Shimla.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Communication facilities in U.P.

†2242. **SHRI NAND ;KISHORE YADAV:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is dearth of communication facilities in the rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh as compared to the urban areas;

(b) the details of existing communication facilities in the rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome the disparity between the rural and urban areas and further to extend the rural telecom facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The number of telephones in rural areas are lower than that in urban areas of East Uttar Pradesh. The details of existing communications facilities being provided by BSNL in the rural and urban areas as on 31.10.2004 are as given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.