

(c) Introduction of ATM is a part of computerized postal banking service. The introduction of this service is under active consideration. Rail ticket reservation facility is being provided through 120 Post offices by Passenger Reservation System (PRS) with the help of terminals provided by the Ministry of Railway.

Operation of PPF scheme in post offices

993. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Post Master General, UP Postal Circle, Lucknow has received a representation from Indira Puram, Ghaziabad for allowing Shipra Suncity P.O. in that area to operate PPF Scheme, 1968;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of post offices in urban areas of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh like Indirapuram (Shipra Suncity P.O.) which do not have this facility thereby inconveniencing the residents of those areas which are fast developing; and

(d) by when a decision would be taken to extend this facility in more post offices in that district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir. No such representation has been received as on date.

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

(c) There are 62 small post offices where this facility is not provided.

(d) As per rules, the PPF scheme is available in post offices having sanctioned posts of at least 3 operative and one supervisory staff.

Allowing private companies access to BSNL spectrum

994. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private companies were allowed access to BSNL's resources including BSNL Spectrum, its towers and offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry is being conducted to probe the irregularities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) BSNL has entered into an agreement with franchisees for roll-out of Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) services in urban areas of Himachal Pradesh, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh(West), Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat & Maharashtra service areas under revenue share basis. As per the agreement, Franchisee shall deploy WiMAX network and BSNL will provide its infrastructure like premises, tower and media connectivity.

(c) and (d) A direct enquiry is being conducted by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on "irregularities in allotting BSNL's WiMAX franchisee". Department of Telecommunications has also constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Member (Finance), Telecom Commission for detailed examination of the course of actions taken by BSNL while floating tender/EOI for short listing of bidders for WiMAX franchisee.

IT development in the country

995. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the position of India in Information Technology (IT) development amongst other nations in the world;

(b) the status of the IT development in various States of the country, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the working conditions and hours of work in this sector are not good;

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure good working conditions as per law; and

(e) the total exports of IT products in 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As per the Networked Readiness Index developed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) India was ranked at 43rd position among 133 economies assessed by the WEF in its Global Information Technology Report 2009-10.