

**Use of post offices for financial inclusion of rural people**

3318. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to use huge network of post offices for financial inclusion of rural people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any additional infrastructure requirements for the purpose, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the financial requirements for the plan have been chalked out, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has sanctioned any amount for the purpose, till date, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Department of Posts is already using the network of post offices for financial inclusion of rural people through its various deposit, remittance and life insurance projects.

(b) Details of various kinds of services available for financial inclusion in post offices are:

Savings Bank

Recurring Deposit

Time Deposit

Monthly Income Scheme

Workers Wage Account for MGNREGS

Rural Postal Life Insurance

Money Remittance Services

(c) The physical network of post offices needs to be IT-enabled. Requirement of the additional infrastructure for IT-enablement of the rural postal network include computing devices, bio-metric readers, printers and internet connectivity.

(d) Yes, Sir. Financial requirements for the plan have been chalked out.

(e) IT Modernisation Project of Department of posts -Phase 2 has been approved by the Government for a total Plan outlay of Rs. 1877.2 crores to be completed by 2012-13 subject to availability of funds. It includes IT infrastructure as mentioned against para (c) for Rural Post Offices.

**Award of contract to MTNL during Commonwealth Games**

3319. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scandal during the Commonwealth Games has come up, this time by CBI implicating the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), for being awarded Rs. 572 crore communication contract at a price more than 14 times the original estimate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take, so as to punish the guilty persons involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) CBI has registered a case No. RC 06(A)/2011/AC-III on 06.06.2011 against Shri R.S.P. Sinha, then CMD (Retd.), MTNL and Shri N. K. Jain, GM (Corporate Sales), MTNL and others. It is alleged that MTNL provided Telecommunication services during the Commonwealth Games (CWG)- 2010 and Organising Committee of CWG-2010 made a budgetary provision of Rs. 31.43 crores. It was also alleged that the accused persons entered into criminal conspiracy with M/s. HCL and enhanced the scope of work and in furtherance of said conspiracy awarded the tender to M/s HCL Infosystems Ltd. in an arbitrary manner and thereby caused a wrongful loss to Government exchequer worth Rs. 380.04 crores. The case is under investigation with CBI.

**Allocation of spectrum and price fixation**

3320. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance was authorised by the Cabinet decision of 2003 to participate in the discussion for efficient allocation of spectrum and price fixation;