

(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;

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) decided to associate the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Para 2.1.2 (3) of Cabinet approval dated 31.10.2003 stated the following:

"The Department of Telecom and Ministry of Finance would discuss and finalise spectrum pricing formula, which will include incentive for efficient use of spectrum as well as disincentive for sub-optimal usages".

(b) and (c) DoT referred the issues of efficient utilisation of spectrum, spectrum pricing and spectrum allocation procedure to TRAI for their recommendations *vide* letter dated 17th November, 2003. Subsequently, TRAI submitted its recommendations dated 13.05.2005 on "spectrum related issues" *vide* letter dated June 6, 2005, DoT sought comments of the Ministry of Finance on these recommendations of TRAI. The comments of the Ministry of Finance were received *vide* their letter dated December 21, 2005.

Mobile phone network connectivity

3321. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints have been received from mobile phone subscribers of various telecom operators including BSNL and MTNL about poor mobile phone network connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;