

Provisions in the Draft NTP-2011 include:

- i. Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.
- ii. To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charge across the nation.

**Service options sought from ITS officers**

†1309. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of demands by the officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) Government has recently asked for the service options from those officers, who are holding higher positions for years in the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such officers, who have given such options?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Consequent upon formation of MTNL and BSNL, Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees of the Department of Telecommunications were transferred to these PSUs on 'as is where is' basis on deemed deputation. As per rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 notified by Government of India, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, these officers are to be allowed an option to revert back to the Government or to seek permanent absorption in BSNL/MTNL. About 3,97,000 Group B, C & D employees already stand absorbed in BSNL/MTNL.

Four option letters dated 22nd September, 2011 were issued by the Department of Telecommunications calling for option from Group 'A' officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS)/ Telegraph Traffic Service (TTS)/ Telecom Factories Service (TFS), General Central Service (GCS), Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service (IP&T AFS) and P&T Building Works Service (P&T BWS) for exercising option for absorption in BSNL/MTNL or to continue in Government service. Last

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

date for exercising options for officers working in Department of Telecommunications or on deputation to organizations other than BSNL/MTNL was prescribed as 28th October, 2011. Such date for officers on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL was 8th November, 2011.

In response to the above option letter dated 22nd September, 2011 issued for ITS/TTS/TFS, 33 ITS officers (including 16 officers retired/resigned/ dismissed) have exercised their option for absorption in BSNL. None of the ITS officers has exercised option for absorption in MTNL. Besides, a total of 1482 ITS officers (including 9 officers retired/resigned) have opted to continue in Government service.

#### **Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana**

1310. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the villages in the country, which have been covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, State-wise along with the genesis of this Scheme;
- (b) the reasons for delay in coverage; and
- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to achieve the target of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) under the 'Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana' scheme are opened at the Gram Panchayat Headquarters which are without Post Offices. The objective of the scheme is to provide basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Headquarters. This scheme is being implemented by the Gram Panchayats through agents appointed by them (Gram Panchayats) with the written consent of the concerned Superintendent / Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. The Circle-wise number of PSSKs functioning in the country (as on 31.3.2011) is given in Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras is an ongoing process. These Sanchar Sewa Kendras are opened in Gram Panchayat Headquarters where opening of post office is justified but it cannot be opened for some reasons. This is also subject to receipt of applications from the Heads of the Gram Panchayats.