

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir, this Ministry has received a proposal for issue of a Commemorative Postage Stamp on "DHUMKETU".

(b) The proposal mentioned at (a) is still under consideration.

Single telecom circle for the country

†1296. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to cover the entire country in a single circle, in the aftermath of telecom scams;

(b) whether roaming charges will be discontinued after forming a single circle across the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) The National Telecom Policy-2011 (NTP-2011) is under formulation. However, the Draft NTP-2011 has been announced by Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT on 10th October 2011 and has been put in public domain for wider consultation. The last date for receiving suggestions/comments is 9th December 2011.

Draft NTP -2011 has proposed inter-alia the following;

- i) Strive to create One Nation-One License across services and service areas.
- ii) Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and Work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.
- iii) To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charge across the nation.

Shifting of circle headquarter of BSNL to Srinagar

1297. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Central Government or PSU offices that were shifted to Jammu from Srinagar in early 1990's have shifted back to Srinagar;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Circle Headquarter of BSNL was also shifted to Jammu from Srinagar and continues to operate from Jammu; and

(c) the reasons for not shifting BSNL Circle Headquarter back to Srinagar and the expected date of its shifting back to Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, the headquarter of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Telecom circle, BSNL was shifted from Srinagar to Jammu in early 1990. Since 2007, the headquarter of J&K Telecom circle BSNL moves from Jammu to Srinagar and *vice versa* with the Durbar as per the schedule of the State Government.

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

Biometric Enrolment Services

1298. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOEACC Society has invited Request For Quotation (RFQ) for Biometric Enrolment Services for approximately 55 crore citizen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to higher rate of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) fixed by DOEACC, only 30 companies out of 300 empanelled agencies have participated in RFQ;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a drastic step for ignoring healthy competition;

(d) whether Government would probe the matter in the interest of transparency; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for each zone has been fixed on the basis of General Financial Rules (GFR) 2005 which indicates that the EMD should be 2 to 5% of the estimated value of the goods to be procured (Rule 157 Bid Security). The EMD amount in the instant