

issues, which include, among others, objective of auction, eligibility criteria, amount of spectrum, number of blocks and size of the blocks and validity period of auctioned spectrum.

VPT facility in Assam

831. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered by the Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in Assam;

(b) the number of villages in the State where the aforesaid facility is not available; and

(c) the number of telephones proposed to be granted in the remaining villages of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per Census, 2001, as on 31.07.2012, 24,491 villages out of the total of 25,124 inhabited villages of Assam have been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility.

(b) The provisioning of the VPT facility is not available in 633 inhabited villages of Assam, as per Census, 2001, as on 31.7.2012.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has identified 128 villages for providing VPTs in Assam. The remaining 505 villages in Assam are non feasible due to various reasons including insurgency, thick forest.

Market share of MTNL and BSNL

832. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of MTNL and BSNL in the mobile market in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that MTNL and BSNL have been affected adversely by the fierce competition in the mobile market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to revive marketability of the two giant telecommunication companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) The market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in wireless segment for the last three years and current year (as on 30.06.2012) is given below:—