

month through mountains and dense forests and they get ₹ 60 per month as cycle allowance;

(b) whether rural post offices in the Narayanpur district are having only one or two postmen in place of three;

(c) if so, whether Government will contemplate to appoint three rural postmen in all the rural post offices and to increase the cycle allowance for the postmen, who travel long distances in adverse circumstances; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. Narayanpur District in Chhattisgarh has one departmental Sub Post Office and 17 Branch Post Offices. The average distance travelled by a Postman/ Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) Mail Deliverers working in Branch Offices per month is only 312.5 km. However, Cycle Maintenance Allowance @ ₹ 60/- is paid to the GDS Mail Deliverer per month.

(b) No, Sir. sanctioned strength of GDS Mail Deliverers is one in all the Branch Post Offices of Narayanpur District except Orchha Branch Post Office. The sanctioned strength of GDS Mail Deliverers in Orchha Post Office is two and two GDS Mail Deliverers are working there. Similarly, the sanctioned strength of departmental Postman in Narayanpur Sub-Post Office is two and the two Postmen are working there.

(c) Manpower is provided to the post offices as per the sanctioned strength. The Department has a system of conducting Establishment Reviews periodically and justified manpower is assessed on the basis of workload. As and when additional justification of manpower arises, the Department provides the same by redeploying manpower from surplus offices to deficit offices.

(d) Regarding enhancement of Cycle Maintenance Allowance, there is no proposal to enhance the existing rates of Cycle Maintenance Allowance at present.

Telcos garnering funds for spectrum bill

178. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the huge campaign/media reports that call rates of mobile telephony are set to rise as telcos are garnering funds for spectrum bill;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether the mobile phone operators get cost around 1.3 paisa per minute call after the current auction of spectrum in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government does not fix tariffs for telecom services. The power to notify the rates at which telecommunication services are to be provided by various telecom operators in the country was vested in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act of 1997. Section 11(2) of TRAI Act empowers the Authority to notify Tariff for various telecommunication services. As per existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance except for national roaming and rural fixed line services. The service providers have the flexibility to decide various tariff components for different service areas of their operation. Tariffs are offered by service providers taking into account several factors including input costs, level of competition and other commercial considerations.

Unclaimed amount under various postal savings schemes

179. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of crores of rupees are held up in post offices as unclaimed amount in the post office savings, Public Provident Fund accounts etc.;

(b) if so, the details under various schemes and the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the main reason therefor is name of nominee not given at the time of opening the account and hassles of completing other court procedures for claiming the amount by the dependents of the deceased account holders; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to make the procedure to claim the amount by genuine dependents hassle-free?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scheme-wise figures are given in the Statement (*See below*). Main reason for unclaimed amount is non withdrawal of money by depositors after maturity of their investment in Small Savings Schemes, discontinued long back.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.