

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) Out of 121 Letters of Intent (Lois) issued in January, 2008, 120 Unified Access Services (UAS) licence agreements have been signed with 16 private companies. M/s Datacom Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has not submitted compliance of Lol for Punjab Service Area and therefore the Lol has been cancelled.

In addition, 5 Lois were also issued to M/s ByCell Telecommunication India Pvt. Ltd. in February, 2008. The UAS licence agreements with M/s ByCell Telecommunication India Pvt. Ltd. have not been signed till date.

(b) As per terms and conditions of the UAS licence agreement, the licensee has to commission the applicable systems within one year from the effective date of licence.

Guidelines for optimal usage of spectrum

3254. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether Government is going to frame guidelines for optimal usage of spectrum;

if so, the details thereof; and

the measures taken by Government for increasing rural tele-density through this effort?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) and (b) In order to ensure optimum use and equitable allotment of scarce spectrum resource, the criteria for spectrum allotment are based on the active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network and demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments. The latest orders in this regard are based on TRAI recommendations and have been issued in January, 2008.

(c) The spectrum is allotted for the complete service area and thus, does not constrain the operators from rolling out the service in any part of the service area, including rural areas. To increase connectivity in rural and remote areas, a scheme has been implemented under the 'Universal Service Obligation Fund' to provide subsidy for shared passive infrastructure (towers, etc.) in certain specified rural and remote areas.

Non-functioning of roaming facilities of MTNL

3255. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

whether it is a fact that MTNL cellular phones were unable to roam in BSNL network for a full three days from 21st to 24th March, 2008; and

if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure that such contingencies do not arise in future?