

Fine imposed on service providers by TRAI

1892. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the amount imposed and collected as fine by Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) from service providers for violation of TRAI's guidelines/regulations *etc*;

(b) if so, the details of fine imposed on each service provider; and

(c) the future plans of Government for awareness and capacity building of consumer in telecom sector indicating whether Government is also considering to fund consumer advocacy group registered with TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No fine has been imposed and collected by TRAI from service providers for violation of TRAI's guidelines/regulations.

(c) There is no such plan in Department of Telecommunications at present.

Telephone connections in Jharkhand

1893. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that only a little over 2 per cent of the people have landline telephone connections in Jharkhand;

(b) the steps Government proposes to take to remedy this situation by expanding landline telephone network in the State; and

(c) whether Government intends to launch any special programme in this regard in view of the fact that Jharkhand is a backward State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The tele-density of landline telephones in Jharkhand is 1.39 per cent as on 31.10.2008.

(b) In Jharkhand, 482 wireline exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working with a capacity of 6.43 lakh lines which is adequate for providing new wireline connections. In addition, BSNL has proposed to open 12 new telephone exchanges with the capacity of 18,000 lines.

Under Universal Service Obligation Fund (SOF), agreements were signed with M/s BSNL in March 2005 for installation of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) from 01.04.2005 to 31.03.2007 in the country including Jharkhand. These RDELs were to be installed in 66 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Jharkhand, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. Subsequently, the cutoff date for installation of these RDELs was extended by two years to 31.03.2009. As on 31.10.2008, about 32,085 RDELs have been provided in the eligible SDCAs of Jharkhand with subsidy support from USO Fund under this scheme.

(c) BSNL proposes to launch its zero/reduced rental scheme on wireline telephone connections during the last quarter of year 2008-09.

The cutoff date of installation of the RDELs under USOF is being further extended by one year *i.e.* upto 31.03.2010.

Policy for allocation of 2G and 3G spectrum

1894. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient details of the policy announced for allocation of the second and third generation (2G and 3G) slots of radiowaves (spectrum) respectively during 2006-07 and 2007-08 indicating post announcement revisions, if any, incorporated therein and reasons therefor;

(b) the details of applicants those who succeeded in securing allocation of the spectrum under these two phases and of those who failed to secure the same indicating the basis on which the respective decisions taken by the authority; and

(c) the details of the licence fees, if any, collected from the allottees of 2G and 3G indicating the revisions made, if any, since 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The initial spectrum for 2G services is allotted to the mobile telecom services providers in accordance with the relevant provisions of Unified Access Service License (UASL), subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted, subject to availability, as per eligibility criteria which are based on the number of active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network, demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments. Based on these factors, criteria for allocation of additional spectrum was issued during 2006 taking into account the active subscribers and the peak traffic averaged over a month. This order was further revised during 2008.

The Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G telecom services, on 1st August 2008 and certain amendments on 11th September 2008. As per the guidelines any person (i) who holds a UAS/CMTS licence; or (ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G telecom services; and (b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 before starting telecom operations, can bid for 3G spectrum. The auction of 3G will be completed by January 2009. The allocation of 3G spectrum will be made on completion of auction.

A list giving service area and service provider wise allocation of 2G spectrum is given in the Statement-I. (See below)