

In order to provide further better connectivity to rural and remote areas of the country, Government is taking the following steps:—

- (i) Subsidy support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for installation of Individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country, where cost of providing telephones is more than the revenue earned. As on 31.05.2009, about 64.6 lakh RDELs have been provided in the country.
- (ii) Subsidy support is also being extended by USOF for setting up of 7,440 Sharable Infrastructure Sites in the country for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country have already been commissioned under this scheme as on May, 2009. The remaining towers are likely to be commissioned by September, 2009. Besides, USOF is also likely to launch shortly second phase of setting up 10,128 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas.

Recovery of dues

2113. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL and MTNL are yet to recover crores as dues from its customers including Government departments;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the BSNL and MTNL have since taken any effective steps to recover the outstanding dues; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL are yet to recover several crores as dues from its customers including Government departments.

(b) The details of the outstanding dues to be recovered by BSNL and MTNL as on 30.04.2009 is as follows:—

(Amount in Rs. crores)

	State Government	Central Government	Defence	Other Subscribers	Total
BSNL	144.60	90.25	29.44	4484.67	4748.96
MTNL *	2.89	14.26	3.01	1159.68	1179.84

*For GSM and CDMA, MTNL does not compile these figures category-wise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have taken many effective steps to recover the outstanding dues, the details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of the effective steps taken to recover the outstanding dues by BSNL and MTNL

BSNL and MTNL have taken following steps to recover the outstanding dues:—

- (1) Automatic payment reminders are issued through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones.
- (2) Phones are disconnected as per the prescribed schedule in case of non payment of dues by customers. This is followed by permanent closure of telephone and adjustment of security deposit against the outstanding dues.
- (3) Unit-wise and year-wise targets are fixed for recovery/liquidation of outstanding dues and progress in this regard is closely monitored at the Corporate level and suitable instructions are issued from time to time to field units for improving the recovery of dues.
- (4) Recovery Agents are employed for making recoveries.
- (5) Various discount/incentive schemes are launched for recovery of outstanding from defaulting subscribers.
- (6) Legal proceedings wherever required are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues;
- (7) BSNL has requested various State Government to amend their respective land revenue Acts, so that outstanding telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.
- (8) MTNL is implementing a Revenue Assurance program to maximize the revenue billing and revenue realization. It has also deployed a reputed firm to conduct Revenue Assurance Audit of its landline interconnect billing process. Convergent billing system is also being introduced by MTNL for improving of dues.

2G spectrum allocation

2114. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has recently decided to fix responsibilities for large scale irregularities unearthed by it in the controversial 2G spectrum allocations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;