

GSM spectrum

2152. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GSM spectrum usage charges are 4 per cent of AGR for 8 MHz well as for 10 MHz of spectrum;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping the same spectrum usage charge for 8 MHz and 10 MHz each and whether there is any similar instances of such charges being kept same for different amounts of spectrum;

(c) the quantum of loss caused to Government by not charging proper spectrum usage charges from operators holding 10 MHz of spectrum; and

(d) the manner Government propose to collect the loss suffered during the last few years due to this favourable approach to the operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes Sir, additional spectrum beyond initial spectrum is allotted on the basis of subscriber linked criteria in force at that time of such allotment. The spectrum usage charges were levied 4% of AGR of spectrum allotted between 6.2 MHz and 10.2 MHz. The spectrum usage charges have since been revised effective from 01/04/2010 and they are as follows:

Upto 2X4.4 MHz	3%
Upto 2X6.2 MHz	4%
Upto 2X8.2 MHz	5%
Upto 2X10.2 MHz	6%
Upto 2X12.2 MHz	7%
Upto 2X15.2 MHz	8%

(b) Government is reviewing spectrum charges periodically as per the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). During the year 2005, TRAI in its recommendations on Annual spectrum charges, keeping the objectives of the growth, affordability, penetration of mobile services in semi urban and rural areas has recommended to reduce the existing ceiling on spectrum charges from 6% (for 15.0 MHz spectrum) of AGR to 4% of AGR. But Government did not reduce the spectrum charges.

Subsequently, during the year 2007, TRAI has recommended to increase 1% of AGR for all slabs and introduction of one slab for spectrum up to 8 MHz. Accordingly, annual spectrum charges have been revised to that as mentioned in para (a) above.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.