

Price for allocating new numbers

4472. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom operators including BSNL and MTNL have opposed the TRAI's move to charge a price for allocating new numbers stating that an additional levy is totally unwarranted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the regulator TRAI's main reason behind suggesting a price is that the numbers are not utilized properly and the operators are not to dole out numbers to lure more customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, TRAI has released a consultation paper on Efficient Utilization of Numbering Resources on 20.01.2010 which discusses, among others, the issue of pricing of numbering resources and the method to be adopted for such pricing. In this connection, written comments have been received from many stakeholders. All the telecom service providers who have submitted their comments including BSNL and MTNL have commented against the pricing of numbering resources. Some of the consumer organizations and a Consultant have commented in favour of pricing of numbering resources.

(c) and (d) The said consultation paper of TRAI mentions that charging for numbers may be used as a tool to encourage efficient use of numbering resources and would be in line with practices followed internationally.

Auction of 3G services

4473. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is in the process of auctioning 3G services;

(b) if so, whether DoT had carefully evaluated all the critical aspects of auction to maximize auction value and avoid confusion; and

(c) if so, the main parameters and time-frame under which DoT plans to auction the 3G services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) EGoM on 'Auction of 3G spectrum' after several meetings decided for auction of 3G spectrum. Government has issued the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for auction of

3G spectrum on 25/2/2010. As per the NIA, the main parameters for auctions are as follows:—

- **Eligibility:** Any entity: (i) that holds a UAS/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) licence; or (ii) that: (a) has previous experience of running 3G telecom services either directly or through a majority-owned subsidiary; and (b) gives and undertaking to obtain a UAS licence through a New Entrant Nominee UAS Licensee as per the DoT guidelines before starting telecom operators can bid for 3G Spectrum.
- **Amount of Spectrum:** Government has decided that 3 blocks would be auctioned in all Telecom circles except Bihar, HP, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal where 4 blocks would be auctioned.
- **Reserve price:** The reserve price in Delhi, Mumbai and Category 'A' Circle is Rs. 320 crores; Kolkata and Category 'B' Circles, it is Rs. 120 crores and for Category 'C' Circles, it is Rs. 30 crores.

The time frame for auction as per NIA, is as follows:—

(i)	Last date for submission of Application	:	19th March, 2010
(ii)	Publication of ownership details of Applicants	:	23rd March, 2010
(iii)	Bidder Ownership Compliance Certificate	:	26th March, 2010
(iv)	Pre-qualification of Bidders	:	30th March, 2010
(v)	Mock Auction	:	5th-6th April, 2010
(vi)	Start of the 3G Auction	:	9th April, 2010
(vii)	Payment of the Successful Bid Amount	:	Within 10 calendar days of the close of the Auction

Status of BSNL

4474. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telecom giant BSNL ranks last in the coveted list of top 10 profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL was ranked second and sixth amongst the top ten profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. However, it could not get any ranking amongst the top ten profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings for the year 2008-09. The net profit of