

Delay in mobile number portability

335. SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mobile Number Portability (MNP) is likely to be delayed by telecom operators;
- (b) if so, the reasons and details in this regard; and
- (c) whether any new deadline has been fixed by Government to roll-out MNP and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Sir, the whole network (all Access Service Providers in all service areas and International Long Distance Operators (ELDOs) in the country have to be ready and tested before the mobile Number Portability (MNP) Service is implemented. Keeping the complexity and enormity of the testing involved before MNP is implemented and keeping in view the status of implementation by various operators, in June 2010, Government set the time line for implementation of MNP to 31st October 2010. The status has been reviewed. The networks are now technically ready for launch of MNP. To facilitate an orderly and reliable introduction of MNP services, a suitable migration plan has been evolved in consultation with Mobile Service Providers. It has been decided that the countrywide launch of MNP services will start from Haryana Licensed Service Area on 25th November 2010. MNP Service in rest of the service areas across the country will be implemented subsequent to the launch in Haryana.

Enquiries into 2G spectrum

336. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status and finding of various enquires into 2G spectrum allocation of 2008;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government is contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) On allegation of irregularities in the award of UAS Licenses to private companies in the year 2008, CBI conducted a search on 22.10.2009 in some offices of DOT and has taken custody of certain files relating to policy/allotment of UAS Licenses and spectrum. Case is still under investigation by CBI.

Non-functioning of Mumbai MTNL helpline

‡337. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has stopped functioning since 24 September, 2010;

(b) if not, why it is said that system is down to whosoever tries to approach Q.S.S. and the reasons for similar answer being given by MTNL helpline for last month;

(c) whether Government is not interested in carrying on operations of MTNL; and

(d) if not, the reasons for harassing the customers and whether Government intends to give benefits to private service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There was no specific problem in helpline service offered by MTNL. Only the GSM billing system was under migration for new Convergent Billing System for four days w.e.f. 23rd September, 2010 to 27th September, 2010. This was informed to all Customer Service Centres and Call Centres. As it was planned shut down, the online registration was technically not possible. The emergency services and all informative services were provided to the customers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) In order to provide better facilities to MTNL customers, Convergent Billing System has been introduced. MTNL being a Navratna Company, responsible to its Board of Directors, enjoys operational autonomy in managing its day to day activities.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.