

Gauge conversion work for Udaipur-Ahmedabad rail line

† * 138. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the work of conversion, from meter gauge to broad gauge, of Udaipur to Ahmedabad rail line has been started by Government;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the work will be started; and
- (c) whether Government has fixed a time-frame for conversion of the said rail line and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatangar-Udaipur (299.20 km) with extension of Modasa-Shamlaji (22.53 km) has been taken up. On Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar section, preliminary activities of Final Location Survey, Geotechnical investigation etc. are in advance stage of completion and physical works will be taken up after completion of preliminary activities and sanction of detailed estimate. On Himmatnagar-Udaipur section, tenders for execution of earthwork and bridges are under finalization. Time frame for completion of the project will depend upon availability of resources.

2G Spectrum allocation

* 139. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering fresh auction of 2G spectrum;
- (b) the plans of Government to retrieve the loss due to the scam during the 2G spectrum allocation during the first tenure of UPA Government;
- (c) whether Government would return back the licence fee to the ineligible players who got the licences for 2G spectrum; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendation made on 8th February 2011 on spectrum pricing mentioned the possibility of auction of the surplus spectrum. These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) On allegation of irregularities in the award of Unified Access Services (UAS) Licenses to private companies, CBI registered a case on 21.10.2009 against unknown officials of DoT, unknown private persons/companies and others under section 120-B IPC and Section 13 (2) r/w 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act. CBI conducted a search on 22.10.2009 in some offices of DoT and has taken custody of certain files relating to policy, issuance of UAS licenses and spectrum. The matter is presently being investigated by CBI.

(c) and (d) Department of Telecom on 14.12.2010 has issued Show Cause Notices for termination of the 85 Unified Access Services (UAS) licences issued in year 2008 to the companies stated to be ineligible in the CAG report on "Issue of Licences and allocation of 2G Spectrum by the Department of Telecommunications". At the time of submission of their respective application for grant of UAS licences, these companies have, *inter-alia*, submitted an undertaking the "I understand that if at any time, any averments made or information furnished for obtaining the licence is found incorrect, then my application and the licence if granted thereto on the basis of such application, shall be cancelled". Further as per the Guidelines dated 14.12.2005 for Unified Access Services Licence, the entry fee paid is non-refundable.

Investigations into 2G spectrum allocation scam

*140. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2G spectrum is a nvega telecom scam in the country as per CAG Report;

(b) if so, the present stage of ongoing investigations by various agencies and the time likely to be taken to complete the same; and

(c) how many officials/companies were involved in this scam along with the details thereof, Department-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, the Report of Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on "Issue of Licences and Allocation of 2G Spectrum by the Department of Telecommunications" which was laid on the Table of the House on 16.11.2010, on the values determined through various indicators, has indicated a presumptive value of loss on account of grant of 122 new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences and 35 Dual Technology permissions in 2007-08 and allocation of 2G spectrum beyond contracted quantity of 6.2 MHz, in the range of Rs.57,666 crores to Rs. 176645 crores.