

**Spectrum as mortgage for getting loans**

843. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to allow Mobile Operators to mortgage spectrum with banks and financial institutions for getting loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the mobile operators and banks in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) Government has decided that the existing Tripartite Agreements in Unified Access Service Licences (UASL) may be modified appropriately to include spectrum in order to achieve the desired objective in consultation with Department of Legal Affairs and Department of Financial Services. Further, in the event of default by the licensee entailing auction of spectrum, financial institution/agents be allowed to conduct auction in consultation with Department of Telecommunications and in accordance with such Guidelines as may be laid down for the purpose by the Department of Telecommunications. It would be open to financial institutions to request the licensor to conduct the auction without prejudice to their rights.

**Poor telecom services in hinterland of Kashmir valley**

844. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the hinterland of Kashmir valley including places like-Tangdar, Keran, Machil Tulail and Gurez are extremely deficient in various telecom services; and

(b) if so, the measures envisaged to fulfil the requirements of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Hinterland of Kashmir Valley is, in general, covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with telecom facilities. Out of which, the mobile and landline services are made available at Gurez on satellite, landline services at Tangdar on satellite and Village Public Telephones (VPTs) at Keran and Machil Tulail on Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (TDSPT). BSNL