

- To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charges across the nation.

(c) As per the implementation schedule of National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-2012), as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-2012, the policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate, from time to time. Detailed policy framework would be put in place within one year for achieving short term objectives and within three years for medium term objectives.

Allotment of spectrum beyond contracted amount

1468. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Commission has agreed with the recommendations of TRAI that the contracted spectrum is 6.2 MHz for GSM and 5 MHz for CDMA for all licences issued since 2001 onwards;

(b) whether Government has been allotting 2G spectrum till now without any additional one-time charge, whether for the contracted amount of spectrum or for spectrum beyond the contracted amount;

(c) the estimated loss to Government because of free allotment of spectrum beyond the contracted value; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to recover the loss suffered due to allotment of spectrum beyond the contracted value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Commission, in its meetings held during 2011, has noted the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard.

Further, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in its judgement dated 31.3.2009 in petition of 286 of 2007, the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) & ors. Vs Union of India (UOI) & ors. has held that the petitioners do not have any vested right to receive GSM spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz. COAI has appealed against this judgement, before the Supreme Court. No stay has been granted by the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub judice*.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The following stipulation was approved in May, 2008 by Department and was part of subsequent spectrum allotments.

"Further, the allotment of additional spectrum is subject to:

- (i) Pricing as determined by the Government in future for spectrum beyond 6.2+6.2 MHz and
- (ii) The outcome of the Court orders".

Levy of one time spectrum charges is under consideration of the Government.

Posting of telecom officials

†1469. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that BSNL and MTNL have sent back 400 officers to the Telecom Department due to lack of work and to curtail expenditure and other such reasons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above 400 telecom officials are getting their salary without doing any work for the last eight months due to lack of work;

(c) if so, whether Government has contacted other departments where these officials could be sent on deputation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), on 22nd September, 2011, called options from Group 'A' officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS)/Telegraph Traffic Service (TTS)/Telecom Factories Service (TFS), General Central Service (GCS), Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service (IP&T AFS) and P&T Building Works Service (P&T BWS) for absorption in BSNL/MTNL or to continue in Government service. Last date for exercising options in this regard for officers working in DoT or on deputation to organizations other than BSNL/MTNL was prescribed as 28th October, 2011. Such date for officers on deemed deputation to BSNL/MTNL was 8th November, 2011.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.