

- (ii) While transferring or alienating the natural resources, the State is duty bound to adopt the method of auction by giving wide publicity so that all eligible persons can participate in the process.
- (iii) The exercise undertaken by the officers of the DoT between September, 2007 and March, 2008, under the leadership of the then Minister of C&IT was wholly arbitrary, capricious and contrary to public interest apart from being violative of the doctrine of equality.

The Government had filed an Interlocutory Application (IA) No. 5 of 2012 in the Supreme Court on 1st March, 2012 seeking clarifications from the Hon'ble Court in order to implement its order dated 02.02.2012, placing on record the proposed auction schedule which may take at least 400 days and indicating that there will be a time gap between cessation of licences as per Supreme Court order and completion of auction. *vide* order dated 24.04.2012, Supreme Court had directed that:

"(1) The time specified in judgment dated 2.2.2012 in Writ Petition No. 423 of 2010 and Writ Petition No. 10 of 2011 for conducting the auction for grant of fresh licenses and allocation of spectrum is extended upto 31.08.2012. This would necessarily mean that the applicant shall have to finalise the auction on or before 31.08.2012.

(2) The existing licenses shall be entitled to continue to operate till 07.09.2012."

(c) An IA No. 8 of 2012 has been filed by the Government before Supreme Court on 09.08.2012 for extension of time for conducting auction of 2G spectrum and with prayer *"(a) pass appropriate orders that the Applicant may conduct the auction process in accordance with the time line set forth in Annexure A-4 hereto to facilitate the commencement of actual auction of spectrum on or before 12.11.2012; (b) Pass appropriate orders that following the completion of the auction, the applicant may complete the further process of allocation of spectrum and grant of licences in a further period of 40 days"*. However, after hearing IA No.8 on 27.08.2012, Supreme Court has accepted the prayer to the extent of allowing time till 11.01.2013 for conducting and completing the auction in terms of the direction given by Supreme Court on 02.02.2012.

- (d) Does not arise in view of above.

Mobile phones for BPL families

†2229. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide a mobile set to each BPL family in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this class has no economic capability for its usage;
- (d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and
- (e) whether Government would make provisions in the scheme to keep the use of these mobile phones free from economic burden and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Comparative price of spectrum

†2230. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the proposed price of spectrum is more than that in countries like Germany, Singapore, Sweden, France, Spain and United States of America;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) the price of spectrum in the above said countries; and
- (d) the price of spectrum in the country as compared to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Except in Germany and Singapore for 1800 MHz band.

(c) The final auction price (per MHz per population) in auctions held in Germany, Singapore, Sweden, France, Spain and United States of America in recent years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Government has decided the Reserve Price for 1800 MHz band at Rs. 14,000 crores for 5 MHz pan India and Reserve Price for 800 MHz band at 1.3 times that of 1800 MHz band. The reserve price per MHz for 1800 MHz band Pan India works out to be Rs.2800 crore. Taking into account the Indian population as 120 crores, the price per MHz per population is approx. Rs.1 1.66 in 1800 MHz band and in 800 MHz band the price per MHz per population is approx. Rs.15.15.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.