

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the reasons behind such a consideration; and

(c) the proposed plan of action for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) In reference to the auction of spectrum in 1800 MHz band and 800 MHz band concluded on 14.11.2012, Government has decided that the set-off of entry fee against earnest money and payment due in the event of spectrum being won would be permitted only to the quashed license holders participating in the auction.

Construction of BSNL mobile towers in Assam

1613. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile towers constructed by BSNL in Assam till date;
- (b) the number of towers, if any, whose operations/functioning have been discontinued;
- (c) the number of towers under construction;
- (d) the number of towers BSNL proposes to construct; and
- (e) the impediments, if any, experienced by BSNL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) BSNL has constructed 1321 mobile towers in Assam and operation/functioning of none of the towers has been discontinued.

(c) to (e) BSNL augments its mobile network based on techno-commercial considerations. However, at present, 150 number of mobile towers are under construction by BSNL in Assam. Some of the impediments experienced by BSNL in this regard are as follows:

- Difficulty in getting electric supply connection.
- Law and Order situation.
- At some places neighbours object for erection of towers because of fear of radiation impact.