

Loss to exchequer from allotment of excess spectrum

1616. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in a financial daily on 6 November, 2012, "Airtel gained the most from 2002 move to allot extra spectrum";

(b) if so, names of other telecom operators who gained from allotment of extra spectrum since 2002;

(c) the amount of loss to exchequer due to free allotment of excess spectrum and gains accrued to various telecom operators along with the details thereof, operator-wise;

(d) whether action has been taken by Government against erring officials and also against various telecom operators, if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor and timeframe by which action would be initiated against these telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. GSM spectrum (Start up and additional) to all the service providers has been allotted in accordance with the provisions of the Service license and as per the guidelines/order/criteria, as applicable at the time of such allotment.

Annual spectrum usages are being levied as a percentage of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). In the absence of policy decision on the charging of excess spectrum, no quantification of the same can be done.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Illegal mobile towers in Delhi

1617. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 47 per cent mobile towers in Delhi are illegally constructed;

(b) whether such towers have been found emitting radiations;

- (c) whether the court of law has asked for details of such towers;
- (d) the action plan of Government to control the above; and
- (e) the hazardous effects of such mobile towers on the general public especially women and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) As per existing policy for installation of Base Transmitting Station (BTS), Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. The siting clearance is issued without prejudice to applicable bylaws, rules and regulation of local bodies such as State Government/Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the Telecom Service Provider has to obtain the necessary permission from the respective local bodies such as Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat etc. Municipal Corporation of Delhi has informed that out of total 6216 Cell Towers, 3399 Cell Towers have been installed with due permission and 2817 without permission under the jurisdiction of North Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi Municipal Corporations. Delhi Municipal Corporation has initiated action against illegal mobile towers under relevant provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

(b) Self certification regarding compliance of radiation norms is submitted by the Telecom Service Providers to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT. All new BTS sites start radiating only after self certificate is submitted to relevant TERM Cells. The TERM Cell tests up to 10% of BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

If a site fails to meet the prescribed radiation criterion, there is a provision of levying a penalty of Rs. 5 lakh per BTS per service provider. Service providers must meet the criterion within one month of the report of TERM cell in such cases, after which the site will be shut down. Till date, all the tested BTS in Delhi are found to be radiating within the prescribed norms.

- (c) No, Sir. Details of such towers has not been asked by the Court.

(d) Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the year 2008, adopted the Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) norms prescribed by ICNIRP in respect of mobile towers. Further, based on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the BTS radiation limits have been reduced to 1/10th of the limits prescribed by ICNIRP with effect from 01.09.2012.

(e) World Health Organization (WHO) in its Fact Sheet No. 304, May, 2006 on Electro-magnetic Fields and Public Health (Base Stations and Wireless Technologies) has concluded that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF Signals from base stations and wireless networks caused adverse health effects. From all evidence accumulated so far, no adverse short or long term health effects have been shown to occur from the RF Signals produced by based stations.

**Security threat from foreign company manufactured
communication equipments**

†1618. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security threats have come to light due to the use of many foreign company manufactured equipments in the communication operation system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has initiated any concrete action in this regard so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Sir, no specific case has arisen due to foreign company manufactured equipments in the communications operation system in the country. However, it is a known fact that in the modern age, telecom equipment and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc., emanating from the equipment itself or embedded software contained in it or from antisocial or antinational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.