

**Auction of spectrum of cancelled licences**

4091. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of auction of spectrum of 122 cancelled licences;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India had expressed serious reservation/objection about the non-compliance of its verdict in such auctions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and the response of the Government thereon; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court of India *vide* its Order dated 2nd February, 2012 in WP (Civil) No. 423 of 2010 quashed the licenses and allocation of spectrum granted on or after 10.1.2008 pursuant to two press releases issued on 10.1.2008. It further ordered grant of license and allocation of spectrum in 2G band in 22 Service Areas by auction.

Further in its order dated 15.2.2013 in IA No. 11 of 2012 in Writ Petition (C) No. 423 of 2010 with Writ Petition (C) No. 408 of 2012 and Writ Petition (C) No. 415 of 2012, the Supreme Court has directed that the entire spectrum released as a result of quashing of the licenses on 2.2.2012 should be auctioned without further delay.

The Department of Telecom has accordingly decided that a separate auction will be held in compliance with the direction of the Supreme Court in its order dated 15.02.2013

**Response in spectrum auction**

4092. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has failed to attract bidders in two rounds of spectrum auctions in November, 2012 and March this year;
- (b) whether the primary reason for the poor response was the higher reserve price fixed by Government based on the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has warned that Government's creditability would be affected if the next round of spectrum auction also fails to attract bidders and pitched for allowing spectrum trading to enhance its value; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) In November, 2012, five companies participated in the auction for 1800MHz spectrum. There were no participants for 800MHz band auction.

In March, 2013, one company participated in the auction of a spectrum in 800MHz band. There were no participants for 1800MHz and 900MHz bands.

(b) and (c) The reserve price was fixed after considering TRAI's recommendations. For the November, 2012 auctions, the Government determined the reserve price of 1800MHz band as Rs. 14000 crore for 5MHz pan-India. The reserve price for 800MHz band was fixed at 1.3 times the 1800MHz reserve price. The reserve price was fixed for each Telecom Service Area.

In the March, 2013 auction, the reserve price for 1800MHz band in the service areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Rajasthan where no bids were received during November, 2012 auction, was reduced by 30% from the previous reserve price decided for the auction held in November, 2012. The reserve price for 900MHz spectrum in Delhi and Mumbai was twice such revised reserve price for the 1800MHz band. Reserve price of 800MHz band spectrum where there were no participants in November, 2012 auction, was reduced by 50% from the previous reserve price decided for the auction held in November, 2012.

(d) and (e) Planning Commission has sent a note to this Ministry stating, among others, that a third failed auction would impact very adversely on the investment climate and Government's credibility. The Planning Commission has suggested to seek fresh recommendations from TRAI, in which TRAI should be asked to take into account the recent auction experience, and the changed market conditions, and also any other factors that may be material and recommend fresh reserve prices. They

could also make any other recommendation regarding any other aspect of the auction where they feel procedure can be improved.

Planning Commission has further suggested in their note that it is time to refer to TRAI whether the next round of auction could be conducted on the assumption that spectrum is tradable.

### **Telephone facilities to Gram Panchayats**

†4093. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided to all Gram Panchayats of all the States including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats which have been provided telephone facilities during the last Five Year Plan;

(c) State-wise number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the current Five Year Plan; and

(d) by when all the Gram Panchayats of the country are likely to be provided with telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) 2,39,964 Gram Panchayats out of the 2,47,849 Gram Panchayats have been provided with telephone facilities, as on 31.03.2013. Telephone facilities have been provided in all the Gram Panchayats (51,971) in Uttar Pradesh.

State/Circle-wise details of number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone facilities as on 31.03.2013 are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

State/Circle-wise details of number of remaining Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during current Five Year Plan are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that all the remaining Gram Panchayats are likely to be provided with telephone facilities during current financial year 2013-14 subject to technical feasibility.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.