

Mobile phone services in Uttar Pradesh

1293. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of areas in Uttar Pradesh where mobile telephony services and mobile connectivity are weak or deficient;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) the areas in and around Ghaziabad and Gursahaiganj in Uttar Pradesh where mobile connectivity is not upto the mark; and
- (d) the steps being taken to strengthen and upgrade the mobile telephony services in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) Telecom Service Providers are obliged to roll out their services in 50% of the total districts of their own choice by covering the District Head Quarter (DHQ) or any other town in lieu of DHQ. Further expansion of network beyond roll out obligations is to be done by the TSPs as per their techno-commercial interests. As such all the districts in Uttar Pradesh are covered by major Mobile Service Providers in general. However, as per the recent survey done approx. 5000 villages in Uttar Pradesh (villages as per Census, 2001) are yet to be connected by TSPs.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) assesses the performance of service providers against the Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks through quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports submitted by service providers and also through audit and assessment of quality of service through independent agencies. The performance of the service providers against the quality of service benchmarks are assessed for the service area as a whole and therefore details in respect of performance in the different areas of the service area is not available. As per the Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending December, 2012 submitted by the service providers it is seen that the service providers have fully met the benchmarks for the network related parameters in Uttar Pradesh (East) service area. In the case of Uttar Pradesh (West) service area, all the service providers have met the benchmark for the network related parameters except BSNL.

(d) TRAI has been taking various steps to ensure quality of service by Cellular Mobile Service Providers. Some of these steps are given below:—

- (i) TRAI monitors the performance of Cellular Mobile Service against the benchmarks given for the various parameters laid in Quality of Service Regulations through Quarterly and Monthly Performance Monitoring Reports. In addition, PoI (Point of Interconnection) congestion is also monitored on monthly basis.
- (ii) TRAI also undertakes objective assessment of the Quality of Service of Cellular Mobile Services through an independent agency. A customer satisfaction survey is also conducted quarterly through this agency. The results of these audit and survey were widely published for public/Stakeholders knowledge.
- (iii) TRAI also follows up with the Service Providers for addressing deficiencies in meeting the Quality of Service benchmarks.

Revision of reserve price for auction of spectrum

1294. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to revise the reserve price for auction of spectrum under 800 MHz band (CDMA);
- (b) if so, by when Government plans to finalise the reserve price; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to boost investors confidence and prevent another unsuccessful auction like in November, 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Auction of 800 MHz band was scheduled in November, 2012. Reserve Price for spectrum in 800 MHz was indicated in the Notice Inviting Applications issued on 28 September, 2012 for auction of spectrum in 1800 MHz and 800 MHz bands. There was no participation for auction of spectrum in 800 MHz band in November, 2012. Subsequently, Government has taken a decision to reduce the Reserve Price by 50% from the reserve price fixed for the auction held in November, 2012. Notice Inviting Application (NIA) was issued on 30.01.2013 for auction of 800 MHz in