

(d) The present operational network of MTNL in Delhi is lagging in-terms of number of deployed BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) due to financial constraints faced by MTNL.

Government has taken several measures to in an attempt to bring MTNL out of financial distress so that it could undertake its expansion plan. These measures include:

- (i) Treatment of pensionary liabilities of Government employees absorbed in MTNL and who opted for combined service pension on parity with similar employees in BSNL.
- (ii) Financial support of ₹4533.97 crores to MTNL on surrender of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum.
- (iii) Financial support of ₹492 Crores to MTNL, towards payment of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).

MTNL is also taking various measures like rehabilitation/upgradation of outdoor network, capacity augmentation, optimization of network and coordination with civic agencies to avoid damage to its underground cables.

In addition to above measures, MTNL is separately preparing a revival plan for increasing revenue potential, identifying business opportunities, organizational restructuring and training to enable human resource to grow into customer-centric companies with expertise in marketing and customer services delivery.

#### **Development of Gwalior as an IT hub**

675. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intends to develop Gwalior as an IT hub in view of its good connectivity with Delhi and distribution of load from the National Capital Region; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to strengthen Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) to give support to Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSEDC)?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that the State Government intends to develop Gwalior as an IT Hub, in view of its good connectivity with Delhi and distribution of load from the National Capital Region. STPI has setup a Centre at Gwalior to support IT-ITES industry in the region by providing Statutory, Incubation, Datacom and other related services.

(b) STPI and MPSEDC are working together for establishment of STPI Centres, for

promotion of IT-ITES industry across the State of Madhya Pradesh. The State Government have already built a state-of-art building having 90000 sq. ft. and many IT companies are exploring to start their IT-ITES activities in the same. As per Science and Technology Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, a piece of land measuring 100 Acres has also been earmarked for ESDM activities in the region. The State Government is also organizing seminars workshops in Gwalior to encourage the local companies to come to a common platform for a cluster type eco-system.

#### **Postponement of spectrum auction**

676. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that leading telecom operators have requested Government to postpone the spectrum auction that is likely to be held in February next year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) the suggestions given by them in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has agreed to their request, and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), jointly and through their associations, have submitted their representations in the matter as detailed below:

1. M/s Vodafone, M/s Bharti Airtel, M/s Idea Cellular and M/s Reliance Communications, in their joint representation dated 30.10.2014, have proposed the following until adequate spectrum, as recommended by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), is made available, for the conduct of fair and equitable auctions:
  - (i) They may be allowed to continue with their existing in-use spectrum.
  - (ii) Auction be conducted when there is adequate supply of spectrum in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz bands, which should be auctioned simultaneously in a "Big Bang" auction.
  - (iii) For the intervening period, licensees pay the price discovered in February 2014 for 1800 MHz with 900 MHz multiplier as recently recommended by TRAI. This may be adjusted subsequently if required, for the price discovered in the next round of auctions. Or alternatively, if it is taking too long to resolve supply constraints, Government can work towards a plan to auction all 900 MHz spectrum allocated to the 1996-2000 licenses together, when BSNL/MTNL licenses/spectrum comes for extension.