

(TRAI) monitors the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) against the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by it. As per the performance monitoring report for the quarter ending December, 2015, for cellular mobile telephone services (2G& 3G), MTNL, in general, is meeting the benchmark for all the Quality of service parameters.

To provide even better mobile services, MTNL has taken several steps to for further improve its telecom network and quality of service. Some of these steps are as follows:

- MTNL has planned to upgrade the existing High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) 3G network supporting Downlink speed of 3.6 Mbps and Uplink speed of 384 Kbps to HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Access +) with Downlink speed of 21.1 Mbps and Uplink speed of 5.76 Mbps per sector.
- MTNL is taking steps for up-gradation / augmentation / expansion of existing 2G/ 3G network.
- MTNL is planning to provide the backhaul media connectivity of existing mobile tower sites in Delhi and Mumbai on OFC (Optical Fibre Network) network in place of Microwave network.
- MTNL is also exploring synergy with BSNL for its mobile services amongst other initiatives.
- Preventive maintenance to minimize hardware faults.
- Online monitoring of BTS (Base Transceiver Station) outages.

Auctioning of 700 MHz spectrum

1039. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has recently recommended for auctioning of 700 MHz spectrum for the first time in the country;

(b) if so, the reserve price fixed by TRAI; and

(c) the reasons that telecom companies are asking to hold back the auctioning of this spectrum along with the reasons why Government is planning to go ahead with it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of

India (TRAI) has made recommendations on 'Valuation and Reserve Price of spectrum in 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands' dated 27.01.2016. The reserve price fixed by TRAI for 700 MHz band is given in the Statement (*See* below). These recommendations are under consideration.

Statement

Details of Recommended Reserve Price per MHz (Paired) in 700 MHz Band

(₹ in crore)

Licensed Service Area	Category	Recommended Reserve Price
Delhi	Metro	1595
Mumbai	Metro	1192
Kolkata	Metro	596
Andhra Pradesh	A	971
Gujarat	A	952
Karnataka	A	740
Maharashtra	A	1272
Tamil Nadu	A	900
Haryana	B	186
Kerala	B	334
Madhya Pradesh	B	331
Punjab	B	308
Rajasthan	B	364
U. P. (East)	B	459
U.P. (West)	B	384
West Bengal	B	183
Assam	C	158
Bihar	C	248

Licensed Service Area	Category	Recommended Reserved Price
Himachal Pradesh	C	64
Jammu and Kashmir	C	52
North East	C	44
Odisha	C	152

Legislation to regulate issues relating to net neutrality

1040. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to effect legislation to give the telecom regulator, TRAI, the powers to regulate on issues relating to net neutrality or directly legislate on other issues of net neutrality like fast lane, slow lane, throttling etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) TRAI has recently released its regulation "Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016" on 8th Feb, 2016 which, *inter alia*, prohibits any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content. Government is committed to core principles of Net Neutrality through appropriate policy response, as various other related issues of Net Neutrality are within its policy domain.

Government policy on Net Neutrality shall be finalized after taking into account recommendations of committee constituted by Department of Telecommunications and recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and other inputs to the Government. TRAI recommendations on the issue are awaited, whereupon the Government will take a final view.

Addressing of consumer interest issues by telecom operators

1041. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been little progress by telecom companies in addressing consumer interest issues like call drops and expansion of internet connectivity;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider seeking TRAI's recommendations