

Telecom spectrum auction

2200. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government recently cleared mega telecom spectrum auction plan that would offer high-speed data, help reduce call drops etc., if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the estimated revenue that is expected from the auction;
- (c) whether this would increase the cost of operation of mobile service providers and consequently passed on to the customers, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC), which telecom firms have to pay, has been decided; and
- (e) if not, when and who will decide the payment of SUC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Government has approved the issues related to spectrum auction, *viz.* Quantum of spectrum, Block size, Conditions for minimum spectrum to bid, Spectrum Cap, Auction of partial spectrum, Rollout obligations, Eligibility Conditions, Validity period, Reserve price, payment terms etc., for auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands.

(b) The expected revenue from spectrum auction is dependent on market dynamics such as behavior of bidders, etc.

(c) It is expected that competition in the telecom sector may force operators not to increase the tariffs.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken a decision on Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) on 3rd August, 2016.

Villages with access to telecom services

2201. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that all inhabited villages in the country have not been covered with access to telecom services at affordable price though Government is releasing huge subsidies to telecom companies under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) since one and half decades, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is having steady monitoring mechanism on the expenditure of these funds and services delivered by the service providers; and

(c) the year-wise funds collected under Universal Access Levy (UAL) and expenditure since inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) (i) 5,81,183 out of 5,93,601 inhabited villages (*i.e.* 97.9%) of the country as per Census 2011 have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). State-wise details are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(ii) It is estimated that there are about 55,000 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. State-wise list of uncovered villages with mobile coverage is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritised provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area, North Eastern States, Islands and Himalayan States (Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) in the first phase.

(b) The agreements between USOF and Service Providers consist of the following provisions by way of monitoring mechanism and control of expenditure on activities:-

- (i) Terms and conditions of the Agreement to guarantee adherence to Quality of Service.
- (ii) Self-certification through an affidavit by Service Providers.
- (iii) Deductions for service interruptions.
- (iv) Roll out clause.
- (v) Liquidated damages.
- (vi) Post payment sample verification.
- (vii) Physical inspection.
- (viii) Annual auditor's certificate.
- (ix) Recovery of overpayments with penal interest.

The USOF Administration is assisted by Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA) Offices spread across the country. These field units of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) have been delegated the functions of subsidy disbursement and verification of subsidy claims.

(c) The year-wise funds collected under Universal Access Levy (UAL) and expenditure since inception is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I*State-wise numbers of VPTs provisioned*

Name of the State	No. of inhabited villages as per Census 2001	No. of VPTs provided
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	501	352
Andhra Pradesh/Telangana	26613	25107
Assam	25124	24692
Bihar	39032	38941
Jharkhand	29354	28821
Gujarat	18159	18054
Haryana	6764	6678
Himachal Pradesh	17495	16390
Jammu and Kashmir	6417	6385
Karnataka	27481	27451
Kerala	1372	1321
Madhya Pradesh	52117	51986
Chhattisgarh	19744	18328
Maharashtra	41442	40544
Meghalaya (NE-I)	5782	5290
Mizoram (NE-I)	707	704
Tripura (NE-I)	858	858
Arunachal Pradesh	3863	2810
Manipur (NE-II)	2315	2174
Nagaland (NE-II)	1278	1263
Odisha	47529	45215
Punjab	12301	12065
Rajasthan	39753	39568
Tamil Nadu	15492	15492
Uttar Pradesh	97942	97852
Uttarakhand	15761	15271
West Bengal excluding Sikkim	37955	37142
Sikkim (WB Circle)	450	429
TOTAL	5,93,601	5,81,183

Statement-II*State-wise list of uncovered villages with mobile coverage*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total number of inhabited villages as per Census 2011	No. of uncovered villages
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16335	3812
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5258	2886
3.	Assam	25372	2885
4.	Bihar	39073	2534
5.	Chhattisgarh	19567	4041
6.	Goa	320	65
7.	Gujarat	17843	1275
8.	Haryana	6642	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17882	2416
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6337	460
11.	Jharkhand	29492	5949
12.	Karnataka	27397	0
13.	Kerala	1017	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51929	5926
15.	Maharashtra	40959	4792
16.	Manipur	2515	610
17.	Meghalaya	6459	2389
18.	Mizoram	704	258
19.	Nagaland	1400	137
20.	Odisha	47675	10398
21.	Punjab	12168	91
22.	Rajasthan	43264	770
23.	Sikkim	425	23
24.	Tamil Nadu	15049	113
25.	Telangana	10347	1009
26.	Tripura	863	2

1	2	3	4
27.	Uttar Pradesh	97814	266
28.	Uttarakhand	15745	1876
29.	West Bengal	37469	487
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	684	190
31.	Puducherry		0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		5
33.	Daman and Diu		1
34.	Lakshadweep		1
TOTAL		5,97,608	55,669

Statement-III

*Year-wise funds collected under Universal Access Levy (UAL)
and expenditure (subsidy disbursed) as on 30.06.2016*

(₹ in crore)

Year	UAL collections (Booked figures as per DOT A/cs)	Funds allocated and disbursed through USOF	Balance (CB)
1	2	3	4
2002-03	1653.61	300.00	
2003-04	2143.22	200.00	
2004-05	3457.73	1314.59	
2005-06	3215.13	1766.85	
2006-07	3940.73	1500.00	
2007-08	5405.80	1290.00	
2008-09	5515.14	8548.64	
2009-10	5778.00	2400.00	
2010-11	6114.56	3100.00	
2011-12	6723.57	1687.96	
2012-13	6735.47	625.00	
2013-14	7896.39	2163.45	

1	2	3	4
2014-15	7537.88	2086.98	
2015-16	9835.70	3100.00	
2016-17 (Prov.)	450.77	1063.72	
TOTAL	76403.70	31147.19	45256.51

Note: Ministry of Finance allocated ₹ 6948.64 crore towards reimbursement of licence fees and spectrum charges to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the period 2002-03 to 2005-06 for fulfilling rural obligation.

Internet facility for full year

†2202. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to provide internet facility for full year in just ₹ 100;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

State Food Commissions

2203. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Food Commissions for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of the National Food Security Act, are in place in all States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the names of States where the Commission is not in place and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete formation of the Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides for constitution/designation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.