

2G Spectrum case

3418. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all culprits in the 2G spectrum case have been proceeded against;
- (b) whether anybody has been punished with regard to it;
- (c) how many cases are still pending; and
- (d) the loss to Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) As per the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), all accused persons against whom evidence was found during investigation have been prosecuted in the court. However, further investigation on certain issues is still in progress.

As per the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), prosecution complaint has been filed against all the persons involved in the 2G Spectrum case and all the culprits have been proceeded against.

As per the Central Board of Direct Taxes, appropriate action against violations of provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) has been taken in relevant cases.

(b) As per the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), trial is underway and no accused has been convicted so far. However accused persons in one case *i.e.* RC-DAI-2011-A-0024 have been discharged by the trial court.

As per the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), nobody has been punished so far as the matter/case is pending trial in the court.

As per the Central Board of Direct Taxes, relevant cases are at different stages of proceedings of assessment, penalty, appeals etc.

(c) As per the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), total three Regular Cases bearing Nos. RC-DAI-2009-A-0045, RC-DAI-2011-A-0022, RC-DAI-2011-A-0024 and two Preliminary Enquiries Nos. PE-DAI-2011-A-0001 and PE-BDI-2010-E-0002 were registered with regard to 2G Spectrum matters. At present the trials in two Regular Cases bearing Nos. RC-DAI-2009-A-0045 and RC-DAI-2011-A-0022 are underway.

As per the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), there are 02 cases pending *i.e.* Aircel Maxis deal and Foreign International Promotion Board (FIPB) approval matters in Aircel Maxis deal.

(d) As per the Central Bureau of Investigation's findings, based on the growth in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) per MHz per year in respect of entry fee for new Unified Access Service Licenses (UASLs) and fee paid by dual technology users, an additional amount totaling to ₹ 30,884.55 crores could have accrued to the Government Exchequer if the allocation of licenses/spectrum were done as per due process.

700 MHz Spectrum

3419. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 700 MHz spectrum went unsold through auction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether BSNL has not yet rolled out its 4G services and has sought for provision of a block in the 700 MHz band to start 4G services; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No bid was received in any of the 22 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) in 700 MHz. Expensive ecosystem in 700 MHz band together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 700 MHz band. In addition, companies appeared to be preserving cash to protect market share in the days to come.

(c) and (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not yet rolled out 4G services and requested for reserving a 5 MHz slot for BSNL in 700 MHz band. Entire available spectrum in 700 MHz band for telecom services was put to auction in the spectrum auction held in October, 2016. BSNL did not participate in the auction.

Deployment of public Wi-Fi

3420. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI is exploring for wide deployment of public Wi-Fi in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the action taken/being taken by Government and TRAI in this regard, the details of locations/cities identified where Wi-Fi hotspots have already been set up and being set up, location/city-wise?