

MTNL also faced a malware attack on 25.07.2017, due to which many customer premises equipments (CPEs) were affected. However, all such affected CPEs were attended promptly and services were normalized.

(c) Remedial measures have been suggested by CERT-In to mitigate and prevent the attack to concerned ISPs including MTNL.

The following steps have been taken by MTNL to prevent such impacts of malware attacks:

- (i) As per the guideline received from CERT-In from time-to-time, access to vulnerable network port, domains, IPs from MTNL network is blocked at Gateway level.
- (ii) The broadband customers are made aware about the various malware attacks through SMS, in-browser information messages and displaying security guidelines on MTNL website.
- (d) MTNL had provided free replacement of equipments to affected customers.

Process for next round of Spectrum Auction

1351. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has kick-started the process for the next round of spectrum auction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has issued a consultation paper on key issues for sale of airwaves, including for offering 5G services; and

(d) whether in the last auction, 2, 355 megahertz of spectrum worth ₹ 5.6 lakh crore across seven bands was put up for bids and fetched Government revenue of ₹ 65,789 crore only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes sir. DoT has sent reference to TRAI on 19.04.2017 seeking recommendations on the Reserve Price for auction of right to use spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands. TRAI had sent reference back asking DoT for more information on 15.05.2017. DoT has replied back to TRAI on 07.09.2017. TRAI, on 28.08.2017 has issued consultation Paper on Auction of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands (including 5G).

(d) In the last auction (2016) 2354.76 MHz Spectrum with a total reserve price of ₹ 5.67 lakh crores across 7 bands, was put-up for Auction and the total bid value was ₹ 65,789 crores for 964.8 MHz Spectrum.

Subsidy on essential food items

1352. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is providing rice, wheat, pulses, edible oil and kerosene at subsidized price to Tamil Nadu to extend the coverage to all priority households;

(b) if so, details thereof and details of supply provided monthly and subsidy provided per kgs/unit to each item;

(c) whether the subsidy rates were fixed a long back and was not increased for a long time, till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to increase supply of these essential food items to Tamil Nadu and also the subsidy given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) Coverage under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains is under two categories, namely, households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. Accordingly, for the AAY and priority households identified by the Government of Tamil Nadu, within the coverage determined for the State, monthly 193221.10 tons of rice and 8893.02 tons of wheat is being allocated for eligible households at ₹ 3/2 per kg for rice/wheat. In addition, 99773.138 tons of rice and 4592.070 tons of wheat is also being allocated, @ ₹ 8.30/6.10 per kg for rice/wheat, to Tamil Nadu as 'tide over' allocation to protect their average annual offtake under erstwhile TPDS, as per provisions of NFSA.

The difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains and the subsidized prices under NFSA is borne by the Central Government as food subsidy. With the increase of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of foodgrains and corresponding increase in the cost of procurement incidentals, the economic cost of foodgrains gets increased, resulting in increase in per unit food subsidy also. At the current level of Economic Cost, the per unit subsidy for allocation of foodgrains for eligible AAY and priority households is ₹ 29.64 per kg for rice and ₹ 22.09 per kg for wheat. For tide over allocation, the per unit subsidy is ₹ 24.34 per kg for rice and ₹ 17.99 per kg for wheat.