

requested for allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in the 800 MHz band for rolling out its LTE services. The Department decides such matters keeping in view the relevant criteria in this regard, including the decision of the apex court.

(d) and (e) No Sir.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

665. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding merger of BSNL and MTNL is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame and detailed roadmap for merger of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) No proposal of merger of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is presently under consideration of Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

700 MHz band spectrum allocation to BSNL

666. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from BSNL for allocation of 5 MHz block in 700 MHz band through the equity route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for no allocation of 5 MHz block in 700 MHz band spectrum to BSNL, till date; and

(d) the details of the roadmap for rollout of 4G services by BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) A request from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for allocation of 5 MHz block in 700 MHz band through the equity route or allocation of 5 MHz block in 2100 MHz band on a temporary basis was received in Department of Telecommunications for rolling out its LTE services.

Subsequently, BSNL submitted a detailed proposal for allocation of 5 MHz block in 2100 MHz band in all licensed service areas (LSA) except Rajasthan. In Rajasthan LSA, due to unavailability of spectrum in 2100 MHz band, BSNL has

requested for allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in the 800 MHz band. The request of BSNL is presently under consideration in the department.

(d) BSNL and MTNL, in their proposals, have mentioned their plan to install 1,00,000 and 9,750 4G BTSs respectively to roll out 4G services in their LSAs. BSNL has already started 4G services in a few LSAs. As on 31.12.2018, 1385 numbers of 4G BTSs are operational.

Irregularities in microwave access spectrum allocation

667. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in allocation of ₹ 69,381 crore Microwave Access spectrum have been found in a recent CAG report and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of revenue earned by Government through auctions of spectrum conducted during the last six years, auction-wise, including targets fixed and the results achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check irregularities in spectrum allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There are no irregularities in allocation of Microwave Access spectrum. However, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) have observed that allotment of microwave carriers to the Telecom Service Providers (TSP) should be made equitably and through market related process. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has provided recommendations on methodology and pricing of microwave carriers, on which Government has to decide suitably. However, so far Microwave backhaul carriers have been allotted only through administrative process.

(b) Auction revenue estimates for budgeting purpose, and actual revenue realization against the estimates are as follows:-

Year	Revenue Estimate (₹ in crore)	Achievement (Actual Receipts) (₹ in crore)*
2011-12	13000	Nil
2012-13	40000	1722.24**
2013-14	11343	18267.18
2014-15	14355	10791.08
2015-16	16000	21587.00
2016-17	34,586	32434.10

* This includes receipts from deferred payments apart from the upfront auction amounts.

** Set off of ₹ 3850 crores was also given.