

- (b) the fate of spectrum allotted to these companies; and
- (c) whether there is any loss to Government in view of spectrum allotted to these companies lying unused?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) M/s Aircel Group of Companies, M/s Reliance Communication Group of Companies and M/s Videocon Group of Companies are under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under Insolvency Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

(b) No spectrum is held by M/s. Videocon. In respect of M/s Aircel, the companies have filled miscellaneous applications 336 and 337 of 2018 in C.P. 298 and 302 of 2018 seeking to restrain the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) from terminating the license and revoking the spectrum. The Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered DoT to maintain status quo and not take any coercive action. The DoT has filed affidavits rejecting the averments of M/s Aircel and has submitted that the spectrum and license are liable to be revoked/ terminated on failure to make payments. The matter is subjudice. In respect of spectrum assigned to Reliance Group of Companies, legal opinion/ options are being examined.

(c) The outcome of CIRP/ legal process will determine the financial implications for the Government in respect of these companies. In cases of unused spectrum, the revenue share of the Government accruing from Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) and License Fees (LF) is reduced.

Auction of 5G spectrum

636. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 5G spectrum has been auctioned;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay in conducting the auction; and
- (c) by when Government proposes to conduct the auction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had provided its recommendations for the auction of spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands on

01.08.2018. The recommendations were examined by an Expert Committee and subsequently by a Standing Committee in the department. The recommendations of the Standing Committee were considered by the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) and the DCC has decided to send a reference back to TRAI on some of the recommendations. Based on the reply from TRAI on the reference back from the Department, a final decision will be taken by the Government for the auction of spectrum, which is proposed to be conducted during this year.

Capital infusion bank loans by BSNL

637. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal from BSNL for capital infusion or availing bank loans to expand and maintain the network;
- (b) whether any such proposals are under consideration of the Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No proposal from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for capital infusion, to expand and maintain the network has been received. However, BSNL has been seeking approval of Government for availing bank loans to meet the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operational Expenditure (OPEX) requirements of BSNL.

(b) and (c) Approval for availing loan of ₹4300 crore to meet the CAPEX requirement of FY 2018-19 was granted on 01 March, 2019. Proposal for approval of additional borrowing for CAPEX of ₹3306 crore, over and above ₹4300 crore already granted has been received from BSNL in May, 2019. In addition, approval for availing loan for OPEX of ₹5000 crore during FY 2018-19 was granted on 14 March, 2019. Against that, loan of ₹2200 crore was availed by BSNL in FY 2018-19. For remaining amount, the validity of the approval has been extended upto 31 July, 2019.

Post Offices in Ratnagiri district

†638. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of post offices to population and postal works is much less in Maharashtra especially in Ratnagiri district;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.