

Charging of royalty from telecom companies

2727. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) how much royalty Government charges to telecom companies for usage of network;
- (b) whether it can be given to telecom companies for free of charge;
- (c) if so, then for what period and under what circumstances; and
- (d) whether Government has given it free to any companies, if so, to which companies, the reasons therefor and for how much period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) For use of spectrum acquired by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) as a percentage of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is payable as per the rates notified by the Government from time to time. At present the TSPs are paying 3-5% of AGR depending upon the band of spectrum, auction held and year/method of acquisition.

Penalty for call drops

2728. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that call drops in mobile telephony is a serious problem in Delhi and other places, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any penalty has been imposed on service providers for deficiency in services; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) The call drop in a mobile network can happen due to many reasons including characteristics of radio propagation for wireless communications, non-availability of sites due to acquisition problems, sealing of sites by local authorities due to fear of Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) from mobile radiations etc. Therefore, the occurrence of call drops is found to be common in mobile networks across the world with varying degree of occurrences. Telecom