

Moratorium on payment of spectrum charges

508. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan prepared by Ministry for telecom companies to come out of the financial crisis in view of the Supreme Court direction;

(b) whether Ministry has put moratorium on payment of spectrum charges by telecom companies; and

(c) the steps Ministry is going to take with the other charges to be collected from telecom companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) The Government has allowed the deferment of spectrum auction payment for two years (2020-21 and 2021-22).

(c) Government has directed the telecom service providers to make payment in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24.10.2019.

Subscribers of BSNL and MTNL

†509. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government telecom companies, BSNL and MTNL are operating in huge losses;

(b) if so, the year-wise loss to each company during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for said loss and the steps taken by Government to overcome it;

(d) the year-wise number of the subscribers of each company during the last five years and the reasons for decrease in the number of its subscribers; and

(e) whether Government has identified those officers/staff who are a burden to BSNL and MTNL, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are incurring losses for the last few

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.