

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL) no decision has been taken to close any of the coal mines under CIL and its subsidiary companies except those mines where reserves will be exhausted. However, in the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) operations in 9 underground mines are to be suspended as per the plan sanctioned by the Board of industrial Financing & Reconstruction (BIFR) for its revival Similarly, in the revised revival plan submitted by the company, the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) has proposed closure/suspension of production in 18 (eighteen) underground mines/units and production in 6 (six) mines is already suspended.

3G Spectrum pricing and allocation

1797. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether committee formed by the DoT to study the 3G spectrum pricing and allocation has recommended, BSNL and MTNL for 3G spectrum quota in step with the recommendations of an internal committee of the department of telecommunications;

(b) whether according to the recommendations four firms would be given 3G spectrum after the first round of bidding for 2.1 Mhz frequency;

(c) if so, the other recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) DoT has not formed any committee to study the 3G spectrum pricing and allocation. However, based on the recommendations of an internal committee which had examined TRAI recommendations on 3G spectrum pricing and allocation, the Government has announced broad guidelines for 3G services is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Details of Guidelines announced by Government for 3G Services:

- The 3G (3rd generation) mobile telecommunications is the generic name for the next generation of mobile networks that will combine wireless mobile technology with high data rate transmission capabilities. The 3G networks will be capable of providing higher data rates and will also be capable of supporting a variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and convention data services.
- 3G spectrum will be permitted in the 2.1 GHz band.
- The 3G licences would be granted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, by a specialized agency to ensure transparency in the selection process.

- Besides the initial, one time spectrum charge, it has been decided that the successful service provider would pay additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of their total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), as the recurring annual spectrum charge. The additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 year from the date of spectrum assignment.
- The roll out requirements, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalties for non compliance of the same has been stipulated.
- Mergers will not be allowed during the initial five years. No trading/reselling of spectrum is allowed.
- The CDMA spectrum in 800 MHz band for EV-DO applications would be treated separately from 2.1 GHz spectrum. If the CDMA based service provides(s) ask for the EV-DO carrier of 2 x 1.25 MHz they would have to pay an amount proportionate to the highest bid for spectrum in 2.1 GHz band.

Resentment against the Communication Policy

†1798. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made comprehensive changes in the communication policy during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is resentment amongst the members of Cellular Operators Association of India due to the said changes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the after effects of the said changes; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to defuse this resentment, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) On 17.10.2007, Government has taken a decision on the recommendations dated 28.8.2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on "Review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers". TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).

COAI and others have challenged the Government decision on these recommendations in telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Growth in Information Technology

†1799. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.