

Spectrum to cellular operators

3572. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular operators have been given spectrum in advance for planning their network;

(b) whether the CDMA operators have been denied this facility and given only 2.5 MHz with no guarantee of spectrum to be given ahead; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to provide level playing field to all the operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Spectrum has been earmarked for cellular operations, as per their Service License Agreement, and frequencies are assigned considering the requirement of cellular operators in a service area.

(b) and (c) As per their Service License Agreement, Basic Telephone Service Providers are permitted spectrum for CDMA based WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) service in the frequency band 824-844 MHz paired with 869-889 MHz, to be earmarked on first come first served basis. Spectrum upto 5 + 5 MHz can be earmarked to each Basic Telephone Service Provider based on their requirements. Coordination of requirements may be necessary to protect existing users. Basic Telephone Service Providers, on installing the Point of Presence in a SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area), become eligible for spectrum upto 2.5 + 2.5 MHz in that SDCA. Further earmarking of spectrum is subject to their fulfilling the roll out obligations, as stipulated in the License Agreement and availability of spectrum.

Irregularities in allotment of coin boxes in Karnataka

3573. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the irregularities in allotment of coin boxes of PCO lines in Karnataka;