

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:135

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010

AUCTION OF G AND BROADBAND WIRELESS SERVICES

Abdulrahman Shri ;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government invited bids in the recent past for auctioning 3G spectrum and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of bidders participated in the auctioning;
- (c) the total revenue earned by the auction process;
- (d) whether the Government owned telecom companies also participated in the auction process;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the mode of participation and their contribution in this regard;and
- (f) the likely growth potential to be achieved through the usage of 3G spectrum in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has auctioned 4 blocks of 2x5 MHz including BSNL & MTNL (4 blocks in 17 telecom circles and 5 blocks in 5 telecom circles) in 2.1 GHz frequency band and 3 blocks of 20 MHz including BSNL/MTNL in 2.3 & 2.5 GHz frequency bands in all telecom circles. The name of bidders participated in the Auction is placed at Annexure-I.

(c) Total revenue earned by the auction process is Rs. 67,718.95 crores from 3G services and Rs. 38,542.11 crores from BWA services. This amount includes the share of MTNL/BSNL.

(d) & (e) Government owned telecom companies did not participate in the auction process. Government has allocated one block of 2x5MHz spectrum for 3G services and one block of 20 MHz spectrum for BWA services in Delhi and Mumbai for MTNL and one block of 2x5MHz of spectrum for 3G services and one block of 20 MHz spectrum for BWA services in the remaining service areas for BSNL with condition that they should require to match the winning price achieved in the respective service areas in the 3G/BWA auction as payment for the spectrum allotted to them. BSNL/MTNL has paid the entire amount.

(f) Third generation (3G) systems represent the next step in the evolution of mobile cellular communication. 2G systems focus on voice communication, while 3G systems support increased data communication, allow high speed data of at least 144 kbps, mobile Internet access, entertainment, and triple-play converged communications services, and has markedly greater capacity and spectrum efficiency than 2G systems. Therefore, introduction of 3G services would help to enhance the tele-density in the country and also increase in Government revenue from 3G operation.