

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3394
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012
SURRENDER OF BWA SPECTRUM BY BSNL
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the BSNL to surrender its Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise;
- (c) whether the BSNL has alleged that it was allotted non-standard frequency;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the frequencies allotted to private operators;
- (e) whether the Ministry is considering to allot standard frequency as desired by BSNL; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. BSNL in their recent letter dated 29th March, 2012 have submitted proposals with two options as under :
Option I : for surrender of BWA spectrum in 2.5-2.69 GHz band allotted to them in all the 20 circles and requested to refund Rs.8313.90 crore from the Government.
Option II : for surrender of BWA spectrum in 2.5-2.69 GHz band allotted to them in 6 circles viz. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu & Kolkata and requested to refund corresponding upfront charges (Rs.6724.51 Cr) paid by BSNL from the Government.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. BSNL has alleged as mentioned in their letter dated 29th March, 2012 that it was allotted non-standard frequency (details are given at Annexure-I).
It may be mentioned that as per the guidelines for auction and allotment of BWA spectrum dated 1st August 2008 & 11th September 2008 (Annexure-II) and based on BSNL's application/request dated 21.09.2007 and 21.01.2008 for one carrier of 20MHz bandwidth in 2.5GHz band, BSNL were allotted BWA spectrum in 2.5-2.69GHz band in various service areas. The guidelines stipulated that one block of 20 MHz shall be allocated to BSNL in all the Service Areas immediately, at a price equal to the highest bid in the respective area.
It may be mentioned that BSNL did not make any request for the change of frequencies from 2.5 GHz to 2.3 GHz band until the publication of Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) issued on 25.02.2010, a public document for BWA spectrum auction and even until the declaration of results of successful bidders of the BWA auction in 2.3-2.4 GHz band. Clause 2.2 of NIA provisioned that the Government has allocated one block of 20 MHz of unpaired spectrum in Delhi and Mumbai for MTNL and one block of 20 MHz of unpaired spectrum in the remaining service areas for BSNL. BSNL and MTNL shall not be participating in the BWA auction, but shall be required to match the winning price achieved in the respective service areas in the BWA auction as payment for the spectrum allotted to them. Table 4 stipulated for service area wise frequency allocation for BSNL and MTNL in the 2.5-2.69GHz band (Annexure-III). The details of frequencies of other operators is given in Annexure-IV.

(e) & (f) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.