

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3789
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
ROLLING OUT BWA AND G SERVICES
Paswan Shri Kamlesh

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

- (a) whether all the companies who had won the spectrum for various services in solo auction have fulfilled the roll out obligation as per their licensing condition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not reasons therefor, operator-wise;
- (c) the status of roll out obligation for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) and 3G services, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) the time by which the BWA services are likely to be launched in villages as per roll out obligation; and
- (e) the action the Government has taken so far against the service providers for non-fulfillment of roll out obligation for the service they have been allotted licences?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Madam, The Roll out obligations mentioned in the amendments of Unified Access Service (UAS)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service licence Agreement(s) to use 3G/ BWA spectrum for provision of telecom access services inter-alia provides that:

(i) Roll –out obligation for 3G spectrum: The Licensee shall ensure compliance of the following network roll-out obligations for 3G Spectrum for respective category of the licensed service area(s):

Applicable for Metro service area licence(s): The licensee to whom the 3G spectrum is assigned shall be required to provide street level coverage using the 3G Spectrum in at least 90% of the service area within five years of the Effective date.

Applicable for Category A, B and C service area Licence(s): The licensee to whom the spectrum is assigned shall ensure that at least 50% of the District Headquarters ("DHQ") in the service area will be covered using the 3G Spectrum, out of which at least 15% of the DHQs should be rural Short Distance Charging Areas ("SDCA"), within five years of the Effective Date. SDCA is defined as per the definition used by the Census of India. Rural SDCA is defined as an area where 50% of the population lives in the rural areas. Further:

the operator shall be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the DHQ;

coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by municipal/local body limit should get the required street level coverage;

the DHQ shall be taken as on the Effective Date;

the choice of DHQ/town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% of the DHQ/town shall lie with the operator.

The Effective Date shall be the date when the right to use awarded spectrum commercially commences i.e. date of issue of amendment letter for respective licensed service area.

(ii) Roll–out obligation for BWA spectrum: The Licensee shall ensure compliance of the following network roll-out obligations for BWA Spectrum for respective category of the licensed service area(s):

Applicable for Metro service area licence(s): The licensee shall be required to provide street level coverage using the BWA Spectrum in at least 90% of the service area within five years of the Effective date.

Applicable for Category A,B and C service area Licence(s): The licensee shall ensure that at least 50% of the rural Short Distance Charging Areas SDCA are covered within five years of the Effective Date using BWA Spectrum. Coverage of a rural SCDA would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by municipal/ local body limit should get the required street level coverage:

The Effective Date shall be the date when the right to use awarded spectrum commercially commences i.e. date of issue of amendment letter for respective licensed service area.

(iii) The earliest date of issue of amendment letters for right to use of 3G/BWA spectrum is 1.09.2010. Accordingly, in view of the above referred 3/G/BWA rollout obligation conditions, the earliest date to meet the required rollout obligations is 31.08.2015.