

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5766
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015
BROADBAND SPECTRUM FOR VOICE SERVICE
Nath Shri Chand

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

- (a) whether there were rules in the allocation/auction of 3G & 4G licences preventing the sale of voice services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the sale of broadband spectrum for voice services has resulted in losses of crores of rupees to the exchequer;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) whether there were allegations of corruption with regard to auction/sale of the voice service on broadband spectrum and if so, the action taken by the Government against the persons/companies involved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) No madam, there were no rules in the allocation/auction of 3G/4G spectrum through Auction held in year 2010 preventing the sale of voice services. Prevention of Voice or non voice services depend on the Service Licence. A service licence of Unified Access service (UAS) allows Voice and non voice services whereas an Internet service provider Licence (ISP Licence) permit restricted voice and unrestricted non voice service.

(c) to (e) No Madam. In respect of the spectrum allocated in 2300 MHz band, auctioned in 2010 and known as the Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) spectrum, it was stated in Notice Inviting Application (NIA) that BWA spectrum can be used either under Unified Access Service (UAS)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) License or Internet Service Provider (ISP) License and the services will be governed by the terms and conditions of the licence obtained by the service provider. The licence does not define services as 4G services. It only envisages voice and non-voice services in the service area using the allocated resources. Further, in addition to the entry fee as applicable for new UL, a migration fee equal to the difference between the entry fee for UASL as per details in Annexure and entry fee paid for ISP license is payable by any Internet Service Provider (ISP) Licensee with BWA spectrum while migrating to the Unified Licence (UL) with authorization of providing access services enabling it to provide mobile voice services also using BWA spectrum. Accordingly, no loss has been caused to the exchequer by allocation of BWA spectrum to certain service providers.