

CAG alleges DoT caused Rs 1,649-crore loss to government

By [Anandita Singh Mankotia](#), ET Bureau | 18 Dec, 2013, 05.21AM IST

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NEW DELHI: [The national](#) auditor has accused the telecom department of causing a loss of nearly Rs 1,649 crore to the government, alleging that it failed to charge nine quashed licensees for offering telecom services beyond what was allowed by the apex court.

According to an internal note reviewed by ET, the [director general](#) of audit, post & telecommunications at the [national auditor](#) has pointed towards the [Supreme Court](#) judgment of February 12, 2012, which had declared 122 telecom permits illegal. The court had asked the telecom department (DoT) to auction bandwidth freed up due to the cancellations.

The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) pointed out that while ordering auctions, the court had directed that while some of the quashed licensees would win the spectrum, the ones who don't must pay up for the airwaves they use until then.

"Raising necessary demand on the basis of the reserve price fixed for conducting the auction on those operators who continued their operations after the Supreme Court order of February 2012 but did not participate in the auctions or participated in the auctions and remained unsuccessful, for the period from February 2012 till to the date of discontinuation of the operations," was one of the clear instructions which the apex court had given, the national auditor has said.

And, according to the CAG, this figure is 1,648.91 crore. "But during the review of records of the DoT, it was observed that even after a lapse of more than six months from the orders of the honourable [SC of India](#), no demand has been raised by the DoT to realise the reserve price due from the operators concerned."

A [CAG](#) report alleging 1.76 lakh crore potential revenue losses to the government from faulty airwaves allotment in 2008 unfolded as the [2G scam](#) which ultimately led to the cancellation of those 122 licenses. A trial is on in the case which has already seen a former [minister](#), a [member of parliament](#) and some bureaucrats jailed for some time.

In its latest salvo, the CAG has accused the telecom department of dilly-dallying on the matter, saying it hasn't even slapped demand notices on the erring licensees.



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