

The finance ministry has proposed a new price formula for spectrum, according to which spectrum will cost Rs 13 billion per MHz as against the present Rs 2.5-3 billion per MHz. Further, while new operators such as Unitech, Datacom and Shyam-Sistema will have to pay around Rs 57 billion for 4.4 MHz of start-up spectrum, existing players such as Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Essar, Idea Cellular and RCOM, which are using around 10 MHz in various circles, will have to pay more than Rs 130 billion. The ministry has stated that the charges should be imposed with retrospective effect, and that operators unwilling to pay the extra price should surrender spectrum.

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