

What is the 2G spectrum scam about?

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The issue dates to 2008, when nine telecom companies were issued scarce airwaves and licences for second generation (2G) mobile phone services at Rs 1,658 crore (less that \$350 million) for a pan-India operation. As many as 122 circle-wise licences were issued. The opposition said that by giving the airwaves cheap, that too in the controversial manner of first-cum-first-served basis, the exchequer had lost billions of dollars. Later, based on the auction of airwaves for third generation (3G) services, which fetched nearly \$15 billion to the exchequer, and that for broadband access, which fetched over \$8.5 billion, the national loss was estimated at \$38 billion to the exchequer.