

# NAB recovers Rs368m from PTCL

Company used extra frequency for its services without PTA approval

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) recovered Rs368 million from the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) for using extra frequency for its EVO, V-Phone and other services without approval of the Paki-

stan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), informed sources told *Dawn* on Monday.

PTA's spokesman Khurram Mehran confirmed that the authority had received Rs368m from the PTCL in two instalments - Rs82.5m in January and Rs285m recently.

The PTCL was reportedly allocated frequency band of 1975-1980MHz and 1895-1900MHz for its CDMA/WLL services, but the company was using 1975-1981.875 and 1895-1901.875MHz, thus occupying extra 3.75MHz. The extra band was being used in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi.

Based on these findings, the

PTA imposed a fine on the PTCL in 2011 which was challenged by the latter in the Islamabad High Court.

When the IHC decision came against the PTCL, the company moved the Supreme Court which upheld the high court's verdict.

Sources in NAB said the bureau later referred the matter to the Frequency Allocation Board (FAB), a government regulator, to ascertain losses the PTA had suffered because of the PTCL's unauthorised practice.

The FAB evaluated the loss at Rs360m which was accepted by the PTCL. Although the PTCL paid the amount to the PTA, it

has requested NAB to declare it as a fine, and not voluntary return, a mode of recovery in the bureau's laws, after which it is confirmed that the company has committed a crime.

NAB has yet to take a decision on the PTCL's request.

When contacted, NAB's public relations officer Mohammad Irfan said that although the PTA had imposed the fine on the PTCL, an inquiry into the matter was being carried out by the NAB Rawalpindi.

PTCL's General Manager Public Relations Imran Afzal Janjua said he was not aware of the development and trying to get information from the officials concerned.