

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 125  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2024**

**AUCTION OF 5G SPECTRUM**

**\*125 SHRI T R BAALU:  
SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the allotment of 5G Spectrum made recently was not as successful and profitable as expected by the Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the huge loss of revenue from the 5G spectrum auctions;
- (c) the details of the recent 5G spectrum auction including the total spectrum and the financial commitments made by telecom operators;
- (d) the specific challenges faced by the telecom operators during the auction process; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government plans to address issues such as high reserve prices and limited bidding interest to ensure that future auctions are more participative?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN  
REGION  
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2024 REGARDING “AUCTION OF 5G SPECTRUM.”**

(a) to (c) No. Spectrum Auction 2023-24 was primarily conducted to maintain continuity of services by giving opportunity to TSPs to replenish the spectrum which was expiring in 2024 and to incrementally augment the existing mobile services. All the available spectrum was put to auction and spectrum worth Rs 11,340.78 crores was bought by Telecom Service Providers(TSPs). Department of Telecom (DoT) issued Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for Spectrum Auction 2023-24 on 08.03.2024. All the available spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz & 26 GHz spectrum bands spread across 22 License Service Areas (LSAs) was put to auction. The auction started on 25.06.2024 and concluded on 26.06.2024 after seven (7) rounds of bidding. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) bought the spectrum as per their requirement. Some TSPs renewed their expiring spectrum and some also acquired an additional spectrum for their network expansion & consolidation. As the Spectrum Auction 2023-24 brought in a revenue of Rs 11,340.78 crores to the government exchequer and was successful. Hence, the question of loss of revenue does not arise.

(d) None

(e) Recommendation of reserve prices is a function entrusted to TRAI which is an independent regulator. TRAI recommends reserve prices after due consultation process with the stakeholders. TRAI had recommended reserve prices for the available spectrum bands in April, 2022 and had further recommended to use same prices for a period of 3 years with suitable indexation. These reserve prices were used in Spectrum Auction 2023-24. The reserve prices were not high nor there was limited bidding interest as Government garnered Rs 11,340.78 crores.

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