

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:333

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

SHORTAGE OF SPECTRUM

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has failed to address immediate concerns of the Sector in its draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the telecom industry has been facing spectrum shortage; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to address the problem?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) The Draft National Telecom Policy (NTP), 2011 essentially addresses the Vision, Strategic direction and various medium and long term issues related to Telecom Sector.

Short term issues addressed in TRAI's recommendations dated 11.05.2010 and 08.02.2011 on 'Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework' have been considered by the Government. In respect of certain recommendations there is a preliminary conclusion that they may need modification/clarification for further action. Hence in accordance with the proviso under section 11(1) of TRAI Act, 1997, such recommendations have been referred back to TRAI on 10.10.2011.

Reconsidered recommendations from TRAI have been received on 3.11.2011 by DoT. Government will take a holistic view on these recommendations after recommendations of Telecom Commission are received in this regard.

(c) Initial spectrum has been allotted to all the existing UAS Licensees except in Delhi Service Area. Requests from some service providers for allocation of additional spectrum beyond initial spectrum for 2G services are pending.

(d) As mentioned in parts (a) & (b) above, TRAI recommendations on "Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework" dated 11th May 2010, together with further recommendations dated 3.11.2011 have been submitted to the Telecom Commission. Government would take a holistic view on further allocation of 2G Spectrum thereafter.