

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1729

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012

SPECTRUM PRICES AND ITS ALLOCATION

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

- (a) the present teledensity in the country as compared to the Teledensity in 2008;
- (b) whether the experts have expressed their apprehensions on use of spectrum prices, reserve price of spectrum and allocation of 2G spectrum;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the provision made in New Telecom Policy to address these issues;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to examine the utility of 20 year licences in the light of rapid escalation of spectrum values;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard; and
- (f) the time by which the National Telecom Policy, 2012 is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) The teledensity in June 2012 was 79.58%, where as in March 2008 it was 26.22%.

(b) & (c) No, Madam. However, the National Telecom Policy-2012 inter-alia contains the following provisions:-

Para 20 of the objectives: Ensure adequate availability of spectrum and its allocation in a transparent manner through market related process. Make available additional 300 MHz spectrum for IMT services by the year 2017 and another 200 MHz by 2020.

Para 3.5 of Strategies : To delink spectrum in respect of all future licences. Spectrum shall be made available at a price determined through market related processes.

(d) Government has decided that the validity period of spectrum to be auctioned shall be 20 years.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Implementation schedule of the NTP-12, as contained in the Cabinet Note is as under:-

Policy will be notified immediately after its approval. Policy will be operationalized by brining out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate, from time to time. Detailed policy framework would be put in place within one year for achieving short term objectives and within three years for medium term objectives. Many of the activities however are of continuous nature and action on these will commence immediately after the approval.