

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4185
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
REFARMING OF SPECTRUM
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has advised the Government to study the full implications and seek guidance from TRAI before approving the controversial proposal to take back all spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all telecom companies have to give up all spectrum in the 900 MHz band at the time of renewal of licences in 2014;
- (d) if so, whether the spectrum refarming is tantamount to forcible dislodgement of a legitimate occupant and goes against licence terms and conditions; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Planning Commission had written to the Finance Minister on the need to seek further guidance from TRAI on the logistics of an orderly migration of services presently being provided in the 900 MHz band into 1800 MHz or any other bands well before the due date of expiry of the present licenses beginning in 2014.
- (c) The Government has decided that the existing telecom service providers be given the option of retaining up to 2.5 MHz of spectrum in the 900 MHz band at the time of renewal of license, subject to payment of auction determined price and further subject to participation and bidding by the holders of 900 MHz band in the auction.
- (d) The license terms and conditions do not provide any guarantee for retention of spectrum held by the Telecom Service Provider.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above