

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2608
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
REFARMING OF SPECTRUM
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has announced refarming of spectrum;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the cellular telephone operators have raised their objections on the refarming of spectrum;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012 stipulates, among others, refarming of spectrum and allotment of alternative frequency bands to service providers from time to time to make spectrum available for introduction of new technologies for telecom applications. Further, based on the TRAI recommendations, their further clarifications and Telecom Commission recommendations, 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.
- (c) & (d) Yes Madam, some of the incumbent telecom operators and their association had raised issues, among others, investment, service continuity for rural areas, impact on quality of service, etc.
- (e) The issues raised by such operators and their association were also considered while taking the decision mentioned in part (a) and (b) above.