

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:589

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013

ALLOCATION OF SPECTRUM

Das Shri Khagen;Nimmala Shri Kristappa

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

- (a) whether the GSM spectrum in 900 MHz band is more efficient than the GSM spectrum in 1800 MHz;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether DoT in its order of 2002 provided that the spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz will be allocated in 1800 MHz band;
- (d) if so, whether some operators have been allotted spectrum in 900 MHz band even beyond 6.2 MHz band; and
- (e) if so, the action taken against the operators and the officials of DoT and Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing for violation of the above order?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

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

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 589 FOR 8TH MAY, 2013 REGARDING "ALLOCATION OF SPECTRUM"

(a) & (b) The GSM spectrum in 900 MHz is generally considered more efficient due to its better radio wave propagation in term of higher reach and high indoor penetration than GSM 1800 MHz. Accordingly, the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) requirement for 900 MHz is less compared to 1800 MHz band. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendations of May 2010, had also drawn attention to the greater efficiency of the 900 MHz band vis-a-vis the 1800 and 2100 MHz bands.

(c) to (e) The subscriber base criteria order No. L-14041/06/2000-NTG dated 01.02.2002 envisaged that additional spectrum of 1.8 +1.8 MHz, beyond 6.2 MHz, would be considered in 1800 MHz band. The allotment of additional spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz was considered in 1800 MHz band. However, at the time of issue of the order, spectrum in 900 MHz band was also available in some telecom service areas only.

After the allotment of initial spectrum of 18.6 MHz (6.2X3) in 900 MHz band to three service providers, some small amount of coordinated spectrum varying from 1.6 MHz to 3.6 MHz was available in some of the service areas. Hence, instead of keeping small chunks of spectrum unutilized, the same was allotted to some operators as additional spectrum, bearing in mind the fact that it was not sufficient to meet even the initial spectrum allotment of 4.4 MHz required for initial network planning rollout and further growth to any prospective new operator. Therefore, the available spectrum in 900 MHz band was allotted beyond 6.2 MHz to those operators who fulfilled the conditions of subscriber base criteria as per the orders in force at that time.

It is also to mention that by allotting the above additional spectrum, the government has earned additional revenue due to enhancement of percentage of revenue share based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).