

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3762

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013

SHORTAGE OF SPECTRUM

Abdulrahman Shri ;Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Sinh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of spectrums in various frequency bands in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove such shortage and the extent of success achieved by the Government from the steps taken;
- (d) whether some telecom operators have approached the Government for spectrum swap-deal with armed forces;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the spectrum available with armed forces; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government on the representation of the telecom operators?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Historically spectrum was allotted to various government agencies in various frequency bands including defence, for variety of applications. As such steps have taken to address the issues related to spectrum shortage in IMT bands.

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) was constituted on 26th November, 2009 having terms of reference, among others, to recommend measures for vacation of adequate additional spectrum by the existing large users such as Defence, Space, Paramilitary, etc., in a time bound manner for the growth of mobile telephony and broadband sectors in the country, in the overall national interest, to suggest measures for early introduction of spectrum efficient digital terrestrial broadcasting for vacation of spectrum for other services in line with international practices.

The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-2012) stipulates, among others, to reform and allot alternative bands or media to service providers from time to time to make spectrum available for introduction of new technologies for telecom applications.

Further spectrum has been delinked from licenses and market discovered price mechanism i.e. through auction has been successfully introduced.

(d) to (f) Some of the Telecom Service Providers have reported interference in their mobile Networks in some of the service areas. Ministry of Defence has been requested to coordinate alternate frequency in such service areas. Spectrum has been identified in different frequency bands to meet the requirements of Defence which varies service area wise.