

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:583

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

CARTELISATION BY TELECOM COMPANIES

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

- (a) whether the last two auctions of 2G Spectrum have failed because the Department of Telecommunications had unknowingly helped to surface Cartelization by Telecom Firms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Association of Mobile Operators have requested the Government to accord permission to share the spectrum issued to them among themselves;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard; and
- (e) the stand of the Government on the requests of telecom operators and the recommendations of the TRAI thereon?

Answer

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

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise in the light of (a) above

(c) to (e) Some of the Telecom Service Providers had written on the issue of sharing of spectrum. Issues raised by them included, among others, that sharing should be permitted across all operators, spectrum holding and technologies; that there should be no one-off fee for spectrum sharing; review of the maximum period of sharing, etc.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendation dated 11.5.2010 on Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework recommended, among others, on the issue of spectrum sharing by Telecom Service Providers. Government considered these recommendations and further TRAI recommendations of February 08, 2011, clarifications of May 03, 2011 and response dated November 03, 2011, etc. and announced the broad guidelines for sharing of 2G spectrum, vide Press Statement dated 15.02.2012 (Copy placed at Annex).

Further, Government has also taken a decision on the rates of Spectrum Usage Charges in case of sharing of spectrum by Telecom Service Providers.