

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014
EXTENSION OF SPECTRUM HOLDINGS
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether certain private mobile operators have appealed to the Government for extension of spectrum holdings for licenses expiring in the year 2015-16 and sought early auction of airwaves to tide over network problems in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to solve long pending problem of shortage of spectrum availability to aid realization of Digital India, Smart Cities and Wi-Fi India targets?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) 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 (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR 24TH NOVEMBER, 2014 REGARDING "EXTENSION OF SPECTRUM HOLDINGS".

(a) & (b) M/s Bharti Airtel, M/s Vodafone, M/s Idea Cellular and M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. whose licenses are expiring during 2015 and 2016 have jointly requested Government for allowing them to continue with their existing in-use spectrum, till adequate additional spectrum, as recommended by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), is made available for the conduct of auction.

(c) Government has already de-licensed spectrum bands in 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz for Wi-Fi services. Auction of spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands is planned during the current financial year.