

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:342

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2015

Vacation of Spectrum

Kamal Nath Shri ;Maragatham Smt. K.;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether nearly 450 MHz of spectrum in various bands are lying with many Government agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the losses suffered by the exchequer as a result of unused spectrum;
- (c) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has requested to the Government to vacate the unused spectrum lying with these Government agencies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to vacate the spectrum and reallocate the same?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Frequency spectrum bands harmonised for telecom services were historically used by various Government agencies. The vacation of spectrum, being used by Government agencies, is a continuous process and has time and attendant implications.

(c) & (d) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has requested the Government in November, 2014 for requirement of adequate spectrum for fair auction. In its letter COAI has mentioned, among other, that availability of spectrum has to be ensured in globally harmonised bands 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz. Available access spectrum for telecom services in different frequency bands is being put for auction from time to time. Auction of spectrum in 2100, MHz, 1800 MHz, 900 MHz and 800 MHz bands was conducted during March, 2015. The total quantum of 470.75 MHz spectrum in these bands was put for auction in March, 2015. Out of 470.75 MHz spectrum put for auction, 418.05 MHz was sold.