

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:252

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015

Shortage of Spectrum

Sathyabama Smt. V.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of shortage of spectrum in telecom sector in various bands;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make adequate spectrum available for telecom sector;
- (c) whether the International Telecom Union (ITU) has been urged to identify fresh data spectrum for telecom sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of ITU thereon; and
- (e) whether Telecom Service Providers have requested for expansion of spectrum holding for the licenses going to expire in near future and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(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.252 FOR 16th DECEMBER, 2015 REGARDING "SHORTAGE OF SPECTRUM".

(a) & (b) The requirement of spectrum depends on various factors such as traffic pattern in respect of voice and data, traffic density, number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) and availability of smart phones, etc. Taking note of increased data traffic, all available spectrum, including spectrum released by Defence in various bands for telecom access services had been put for auction conducted from time to time, which has increased the availability of spectrum with the Telecom Service Providers.

(c) & (d) The Indian Administration had proposed identification of certain additional frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) at International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 held during November, 2015 at Geneva. Many of the proposed bands, namely 1427 – 1452 MHz, 1492-1518 MHz, 1452 – 1492 MHz, 3300 – 3400 MHz and 3400 – 3600 MHz, have been identified with associated regulatory provisions by the Conference for use by the IMT.

(e) The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has sent a communication in October, 2015 mentioning the need to make more spectrum available in various bands to meet the increasing data requirement and quality of service expectations of subscribers. Further the COAI has requested for auction of sufficient spectrum in 2100 MHz, harmonisation and auction of 1800 MHz band as well as auction of 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz and spectrum becoming available due to expiry of licenses upto September/October, 2017.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has already been requested to provide recommendations for applicable reserve price for auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. After examining and taking decisions on TRAI recommendations, auction of spectrum will be conducted.