

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018**

ALLOTMENT OF BACKHAUL SPECTRUM THROUGH AUCTION

3264. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is mulling to allot backhaul spectrum through auction, instead of fixed fee, as suggested by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the working group on microwave access and microwave backbone at the DoT is largely in favour of allocating "E" and "V" band spectrum through auction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government on the recommendations of the said working group?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 26.11.2012, seeking recommendations on "Allocation and pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF carriers". In this matter, TRAI has provided its recommendations on 29.08.2014 and its response to the back-reference of DoT on 17.11.2015. TRAI has recommended that the assignment of MWA and MWB carriers should continue to be done administratively.

(c) & (d) In the said recommendations, TRAI has also recommended that both E-band and V-band should be opened with 'light touch regulation' and allotment should be on 'link to link basis'.

Recommendations of TRAI are under consideration in DoT.
