

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1492
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2023**

ALLOCATION OF SPECTRUM

1492 SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the strategies Government employ to ensure a fair and transparent process for spectrum allocation, promoting competition and innovation in the telecommunications sector;
- (b) the approach of Government to balance the allocation of spectrum for different technologies, such as 5G, IoT, and satellite communication, to meet diverse industry needs; and
- (c) in what manner Government addresses concerns related to spectrum scarcity and congestion, and the measures in place to optimize spectrum utilization for maximum efficiency?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) In the last 10 years, Government has assigned access spectrum through open, fair and transparent auction. The details of auctions conducted in last 10 years are as under:

Year	Total amount received (in crores)
2014	60,677
2015	1,09,227
2016	65,789
2021	77,821
2022	1,50,173
Total	4,63,687

National Frequency Allocation Plan

- Government publishes the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) from time to time. It contains details of the frequency bands that are allocated for various technologies such as IMT (2G/3G/4G/5G), IoT, satellite communication, etc.
- NFAP is formulated after carrying out detailed stakeholder consultations and examining global best practices.

Spectrum reforms:

To ensure widespread access to telecom connectivity, Government has undertaken many spectrum reforms. These include:

- 1) Ensuring adequate spectrum through open and transparent auctions.

- 2) Permitting trading and sharing of spectrum.
- 3) Incentivising sharing of spectrum.
- 4) Allowing sharing of passive and active infrastructure.
- 5) Permitting leasing of spectrum to Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN).
- 6) Harmonisation of spectrum is carried out after from time to time to ensure contiguous spectrum for efficient utilisation.
- 7) The process of Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations (SACFA) clearance have also been simplified through self-declaration basis for the sites fulfilling certain pre-defined criteria.
- 8) Further, the Department carries out spectrum audits and periodic monitoring to assess the utilisation of spectrum and resolution of interference in various frequency bands.
- 9) The re-farming of spectrum lying unused with existing wireless users are also carried out from time to time to improve spectrum utilisation and efficiency.

Impact of the reforms:

- Total number of Base Trans-receivers Stations (BTSs) in India have increased from 6.49 Lakh in 2014 to more than 28.5 Lakh in November, 2023.
- More than 80% of the mobile tower clearance are delivered instantaneously.
- With deployment of about 4 Lakhs 5G sites in 15 months, India has seen one of the fastest roll out of 5G services in the world.
