

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1929  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING SATELLITE PHONE USAGE**

**1929 SHRI IRANNA KADADI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details about the current regulations governing satellite phone usage in the country;
- (b) the data on the total number of satellite phone service licences that have been issued in the last five years;
- (c) the steps taken to enhance access to satellite phone services in remote areas; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government in ensuring the security of satellite phone communications?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) Satellite phone service can be provided by any Authorised Entity having the Unified License (UL) with Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service Authorisation, issued by the Department of Telecommunications. Apart from the UL, the Authorized Entity needs Space segment assignment from authorized space segment provider and Frequency assignment from the Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of DoT.
- (b) At present only BSNL is providing satellite phone services in India.
- (c) “Satellite Communication Reforms-2022” were unveiled in Oct 2022 to propel growth and accelerate the provisioning of affordable satellite services, including satellite phone services, as well as help in Ease-of-Doing-Business

Further, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) has released the “Norms, Guidelines and Procedures (NGP) for Implementation of Indian Space Policy-2023 in respect of Authorization of Space Activities”, which includes the authorization for Establishment and/or operation of a satellite/constellation for communication services using Indian/Non-Indian Orbital Resources and Authorization of non-Indian satellite/constellation to enable provisioning of its capacity in India for communication services.

IN-SPACE has issued few authorizations for non-Indian satellite/constellation to enable provisioning of its capacity in India, which can be used, among others, for providing satellite-based voice and data services in India, including remote areas.

- (d) The GMPCS Licensee is required to comply with all the applicable security conditions as given in the UL License and in the UL Guidelines.

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