

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 184
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH DECEMBER, 2024**

HIGH PRICE FOR 5G SPECTRUM

184 SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that industry feels that reserve price set by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for 5G spectrum is exorbitantly high;
- (b) whether in a scenario where the sector has faced financial stress and 5G ecosystem is yet to be completely developed, a high reserve price may adversely impact ability of service providers to roll out 5G;
- (c) whether despite the request for significant reduction, a reduction of only 35-40 per cent has taken place in price;
- (d) if so, whether there are any plans to further reduce the price; and
- (e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e)** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.184 FOR 12TH DECEMBER, 2024 REGARDING “HIGH PRICE FOR 5G SPECTRUM.”

(a) & (b) The reserve prices along with other terms & conditions for spectrum auction are recommended by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). After consultation with stakeholders, TRAI employs different econometric models and considers other relevant factors to recommend Reserve Prices of different bands in different License Service Areas (LSAs). Accordingly, these recommended reserve prices are finalised by the Government before conduct of every spectrum auction.

(c) In both spectrum auctions, conducted in year 2022 & 2024, 5G spectrum was sold above/at reserve price. During 2022 spectrum auction, Government raised Rs 1.5 Lakhs crores in spectrum charges which was primarily to rollout 5G services. During 2024 spectrum auction, Government raised Rs 11,340 crores in spectrum charges which was primarily for renewal of expiring spectrum and network augmentation.

(d) & (e) For every spectrum auction, TRAI recommends reserve prices based on its rationale.
