

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2024**

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION

1128 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of delays in the launch of satellite internet services in India due to regulatory hurdles and testing issues;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to streamline regulatory approvals and testing processes to ensure timely implementation of satellite internet services;
- (c) the potential impact of these delays on country's goal of bridging the digital divide, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (d) whether Government plans to collaborate with private players to expedite satellite internet deployment; and
- (e) the timeline for resolving regulatory challenges and rolling out satellite internet across India?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) grants authorizations under the Unified License (UL) for providing Satellite-based communication services, subject to compliance with the applicable licensing terms and conditions, including security conditions.

DoT has sought recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on terms and conditions of spectrum assignment, including spectrum pricing for satellite-based communication services. Spectrum will be assigned for satellite-based communication services on receipt of the TRAI Recommendations in this regard. However, the existing licensees, using authorised Non-Geo Stationary Orbit (NGSO) satellite constellations, can apply for provisional assignment of spectrum to demonstrate compliance with technical and security conditions.

The Satellite Communication Reforms-2022 facilitated the ease-of-doing business, streamlined a number of processes including implementation of “single scrutiny workflow”, and rationalized various charges. Further, 5474 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) have been installed through support of Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund) for extending satellite connectivity to rural and remote areas for bridging the digital divide.
