

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATION

333 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the growing importance of satellite communication in India for services like broadband, defence, and disaster management;
- (b) the current challenges facing satellite communication in India, including issues related to limited bandwidth, high costs, and infrastructure gaps;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any auction process to allocate spectrum for satellite communication services, and if so, the timeline for this auction; and
- (d) the steps being taken to encourage innovation in the satellite communication sector?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Government announced Satellite Communication Reforms in October, 2022 and Indian Space Policy in April, 2023. The Satellite Communication Reforms-2022 have facilitated the ease-of-doing business, streamlined a number of processes and reduced financial charges on the licensees. As a result of the recent Space Sector reforms, many satellite operators have shown interest and applied for authorization for providing the satellite capacity over India. It is envisaged that the above reforms will lead to better quality and affordable services
- (c) The Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides for assignment of spectrum through administrative process for satellite-based services, listed in First Schedule of the Act. Further, in line with The Telecommunication Act 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 11.07.2024 has sought the Recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on terms and conditions of spectrum assignment including spectrum pricing in respect of licensees intending to provide satellite-based communication services while accounting for level playing field with terrestrial access services.
- (d) The Telecom Technology Development Fund Scheme has been notified by DoT for domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, and commercialization of telecommunication, including satellite communication, products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
