

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3697  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2025**

**ALLOCATION OF SPECTRUM TO STARLINK**

**3697 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to directly allocate spectrum to Starlink for satellite-based internet services in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for bypassing the auction process that has been followed for previous spectrum allocations;
- (c) whether such an approach is in line with best practices of spectrum allocation for commercial services;
- (d) the details of current regulatory status of Starlink's operations in the country, including licensing approvals from relevant authorities;
- (e) whether similar provisions will be extended to other satellite broadband players; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) The Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides for assignment of spectrum through administrative process for certain services, including satellite-based services, listed in First Schedule of the Act. Spectrum for all satellite-based services has always been assigned through administrative process, even prior to The Telecommunications Act, 2023. This is in line with the international best practices.

In line with The Telecommunication Act 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought recommendations of 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. TRAI is yet to provide their recommendations to DoT.

(d) The Starlink has not been granted any license for providing satellite-based communication services in India.

(e) & (f) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

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