

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2887
ANSWERED ON 13th AUGUST, 2026**

SATELLITE BASED INTERNET SERVICES

2887 SHRI L. K. SUDHISH:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has granted licences or spectrum authorisations for satellite-based internet services in the country;
- (b) the details of companies permitted to provide such services;
- (c) the manner in which satellite broadband is proposed to complement BharatNet and terrestrial telecom networks, particularly in remote and difficult areas; and
- (d) the safeguards put in place regarding affordability, security and spectrum management for satellite communication services?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has granted Unified License (UL) with Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) service authorisation for the national area to three companies, namely OneWeb India Communications Private Limited, JIO Satellite Communications Limited, and Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited, to provide, inter alia, satellite-based internet services in the country.

(c) & (d) Satellite-based communication services provide affordable connectivity in rural, underserved and unserved areas including remote and mountainous regions, which are otherwise difficult to be covered through terrestrial media such as optical fiber, microwave, etc. In such areas, satellite-based backhaul connectivity for mobile towers is provided through Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT).

Multiple service providers have been granted license to provide satellite communication services, leading to competition and affordable service. As per the license conditions, commencement of commercial operations by the licensees are subject to compliance with the stipulated security and technical conditions, alongside necessary spectrum assignment. The security conditions include, inter alia, no copying or decryption of the Indian telecom data outside India and all traffic originating from or destined for India shall pass through the satellite earth station gateway(s) located in India.
