

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4491
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2017
FRESH ROUND OF SPECTRUM AUCTION**

4491. SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL:
SHRI V. ELUMALAI:
SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:
SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:
SHRI PR. SENTHIL NATHAN:
SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the 3G and 4G spectrum auction and the revenues generated there from during each of the last three years, operator-wise along with the reasons for shortfall in the said revenues, if any, with respect to budget estimates ;
- (b) whether the Government proposes for a fresh round of auction in near future and if so, the details thereof including plans, if any, to make the said process an annual affair along with the steps taken by the Government to expedite the same;
- (c) whether the Government plans to auction 5G spectrum in the said round of auction and if so, the details thereof including the estimated amount likely to be realized therein and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate support to all the participants of the said auction and maintain a level playing field for all; and
- (e) whether no player evinced interest in the auction of 700 Megahertz band and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the complaints registered from the telecom companies with regard to the auction price?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) The year-wise figures of revenue generated during each of the last three years, operator-wise are as follows;

Year of Auction	Name of the bands	Name of the company	Total Bid Amount (Rs. in crores)	Upfront amount received (Rs. in crores)
2014	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	9814.93	3369.74
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	6719.41	2217.41
		Vodafone Ltd.	8373.00	2763.09
		Telewings Communications Services Pvt. Ltd.	807.41	266.45
		Aircel Ltd.	182.86	60.34
		Reliance Jio	11026.93	3638.89
		Reliance Communications	163.20	53.86
	900 MHz	Bharti Airtel	8623.62	2155.91
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	3704.80	926.20
		Vodafone Ltd.	11261.20	2815.30
Total			60677.36	18267.19

2015	2100 MHz	Bharti Airtel	5833.52	1925.07
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	577.98	190.73
		Vodafone Ltd.	3703.93	1222.30
	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	1040.71	354.48
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	1919.76	633.52
		Vodafone Ltd.	867.48	286.27
		Reliance Jio	1886.87	622.66
		Aircell Ltd.	2250.00	742.50
		Reliance Communications	393.42	129.83
		Tata Teleservices	631.28	208.32
		900 MHz	Bharti Airtel	22254.88
	Idea Cellular Ltd.		27639.80	6909.95
	Vodafone Ltd.		21234.65	5308.66
	Reliance Communications		1834.76	458.68
	800 MHz	Reliance Jio	7876.42	1969.11
		Reliance Communications	2062.32	515.58
		Tata Teleservices	7220.00	1805.01
Total			109227.78	32377.85
2016	2500 MHz	Idea Cellular Ltd.	2520.80	1260.40
		Vodafone Ltd.	9220.80	4610.40
	2300 MHz	Bharti Airtel	7006.78	3508.39
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	888.28	444.14
		Reliance Jio	7895.06	3947.53
	2100 MHz	Bharti Airtel	4840.00	2770.00
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	3985.00	1992.50
		Vodafone Ltd.	7315.00	3657.50
	1800 MHz	Bharti Airtel	2396.8	1288.81
		Idea Cellular Ltd.	5403.9	2701.95
		Vodafone Ltd.	3743.50	1871.75
		Reliance Jio	2153.91	1076.96
		Aircell Ltd.	111.60	55.80
		R.Com	65.00	32.50
Tata Teleservices		4619.20	2309.60	
800 MHz	Reliance Jio	3623.49	905.87	
Total			65789.12	32434.10

The budget estimate (R.E) of revenue from spectrum auction, actual realization and the shortfalls if any, is given below:

Sl. No.	Year	DoT Target Projection (Rs. in cr.) (R.E)	Achievement (Actual Receipts) (Rs. in cr.)	Remarks
1.	2014-15	Nil	10791.08	No shortfall
2.	2015-16	21,587.00	21587.00	No shortfall
3.	2016-17	33,194.00	33196.87 *	No shortfall

*Rs. 32434.10 crore received from Auction 2016 and Rs. 762.77 crores from sale of Partial/Residual Spectrum at auction determined price.

Contd....3/-

(b) The Department has conducted spectrum auction every year from 2012 onwards in various spectrum bands as per availability. The Government has not yet decided to auction spectrum in near future nor made any plan to make it annual affair.

(c) The standardization of technology for 5G services is in progress at the International Telecom Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland. Further, the Government auctions spectrum without specifying any technology, subject to the condition that the technology deployed by the TSP is the one approved by international organization like ITU or by the DoT. It is for TSPs to deploy the technology (2G, 3G etc...) within the spectrum acquired by them which best serves market demands.

(d) The Government ensured level playing field to all the participants in the spectrum auction held so far and would remain committed to do so in the future auctions also.

(e) No bid was received in any of the 22 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) in 700 MHz in auction held in October 2016. Representations from TSPs were received regarding high price of 700 MHz spectrum. Expensive ecosystem in 700 MHz band together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 700 MHz band. In addition, companies appeared to be preserving cash to protect market share in the days to come.
