

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1332  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**

**ALLOCATION OF BACKHAUL SPECTRUM**

1332. Shri SUMAN BALKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is likely to avoid the auction route for allocating backhaul spectrum, or airwaves, in the E and V bands to help enhance mobile phone signal carrying capacity between two towers, reduce call drops and improve voice and data quality and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether TRAI has recommended that E band spectrum be charges at Rs. 10,000 a year per slot of 250 MHz each with an initial promotional discount of 50% for three years from the date of allocation of the first carrier in this band and for spectrum in V band, and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) Whether the working group on backhaul spectrum has proposed to allot such airwaves through auction instead of “fixed fee” as suggested by TRAI and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) The response of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Government has received Telecom Regulatory Authority of India ( TRAI) recommendation dated 29.08.2014 on “Allocation and Pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF Carriers” which also includes recommendations on E and V bands.

Among others, TRAI has recommended that E band and V band should be opened with “light touch regulation” and allotment should be on a “link to link basis”. It has also been recommended by TRAI that E band carrier should be charged at Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand) per annum per carrier of 250 MHz each. More than one channel can be allocated and allowed for aggregation. There should be initial promotional discount of 50% for three years from the date of allocation of first carrier in this band.

In case of charging of V band carriers, TRAI has recommended that it should be charged Rs. 1000 (Rs. One Thousand) per annum per carrier of 50 MHz each. More than one channel can be allocated and allowed for aggregation. There should be initial promotional discount of 50% for three years from the date of allocation of first carrier in this band.

Government sought certain clarifications which were provided by the TRAI vide their response dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. TRAI has clarified in its response dated 17.11.2015, among others, that E band carrier should be charged at Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand) per annum per link per carrier of 2 X 250 MHz and V band should be delicensed for indoor and outdoor based access applications like WiFi hotspots etc. TRAI has further stated that for V band in backhaul applications, since it is important to maintain records in WPC about details of location of antennas, spot frequency uses, antenna gain etc. so as to avoid any interference from the adjacent channels, it may continue to be on light-licensing and at the price recommended in the recommendations dated 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.

The above recommendations of TRAI are under consideration of the Department of Telecommunications.

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