

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 209
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2018**

HOLDING OF SPECTRUM

209. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the spectrum norms to enable the Telecom Service Providers to hold Higher Spectrum; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on “Stressed assets in Telecom Sector“ had recommended revision of spectrum cap norms to enable the Telecom Service Providers to hold Higher Spectrum. Recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were sought in the matter. Based on the recommendations of TRAI, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to relax spectrum cap norms on spectrum holding by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as follows:

- The overall spectrum cap be revised from 25% to 35%.
- The intra-band cap be removed. Instead, there would be a cap of 50% on the combined spectrum holding in the sub-1 GHz bands (700 MHz, 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands).
- There would be no cap for individual or combined spectrum holding in above 1 GHz band.
- The revised spectrum cap limits may be revisited after Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) 2019.

The above changes have been incorporated in the service licenses.

New spectrum cap will facilitate efficiency and consolidation in the telecom industry through merger and acquisition, spectrum trading and sharing. Revised spectrum cap will increase the spectrum holding capacity of TSPs which will allow them to acquire additional spectrum in order to provide better services. It is expected to promote competition in the market and it would encourage more participation in future auctions as well.
