

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3907
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2019**

NETWORK COVERAGE AND AVAILABILITY OF SPECTRUM

3907. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure a seamless network cover across the country to provide reliable data and voice;
- (b) whether the Government is emulating the Australian model of standard Spectrum Trading Unit and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the current base price of spectrum in the country;
- (d) whether any subsidy/incentive has been provided by the Government to ensure availability of spectrum for rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the spectrum for rural areas is as expensive as the spectrum for urban areas and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) the details of compensation to customers provided by telecom companies for failing to deliver quality data and not following internet-mobile plans as per customer's choice; and
- (g) the current status of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) along with the fund spent from USOF during each of the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) The Government has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth which include permitting trading/sharing/ liberalisation of spectrum, permitting passive & active infrastructure sharing, notification of Right of Way Rules 2016, making available government land/buildings for installations of towers etc. As a result, around 15.57 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) during the period from April 2014 (6.49 lakh BTS) to 30th November, 2019 (22.06 lakh BTS) and 1.67 lakh mobile towers have been added during the period from Dec' 2015 (4.15 lakh) to 30th November 2019 (5.82 lakh mobile towers) across the country. Also, total number of Internet subscriber has increased to 665.31 million (in June, 2019) from 259.14 million (in June, 2014).

As regards, the steps to ensure seamless network cover across the country to provide reliable data and voice Quality of Service, close monitoring of performance of service providers, against the benchmarks for various Quality of Service parameters laid down by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), follow up actions with service providers for improving quality of service, Audit and Assessment of Quality of Service through independent agencies, Drive Tests etc. are being done. Further, publication of performance report of service providers, results of Audit & Assessment of Quality of Service on TRAI website namely www.traigov.in for information of stakeholders are forcing the service providers to improve its service.

(b)&(c) The Government had sought the recommendations of TRAI. TRAI in its recommendations has noted the Spectrum Trading practices in a number of countries including Australia. Based on the recommendations and other considerations, the final decision on Spectrum Trading was taken by the Government. Reserve Price of Spectrum in various bands is given at **Annexure-I**.

(d) No subsidy/incentive has been provided by the Government to ensure availability of spectrum for rural areas.

(e) There is no difference between urban and rural areas as far as pricing of spectrum is concerned.

(f) No compensation has been provided so far.

(g) A balance of an amount of ` 52907 Crore is available in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) at the end of October 2019. Fund disbursed during last three years is given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in reply of paras (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3907 to be answered on 11th December, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil, regarding "Network Coverage and Availability of Spectrum"

Local Service Area (LSA)	Reserve Price of Spectrum Bands per MHz (In Rs. Crore)							
	700 MHz	800 MHz	900 MHz	1800 MHz	2100 MHz	2300 MHz	2500 MHz	3300-3600 MHz
Andhra Pradesh	557	390	417	279	185	78	78	42
Assam	92	64	83	46	30	2		7
Bihar	175	136	201	88	99	7	7	13
Delhi	915	640	585	457	635	164	164	69
Gujarat	546	385	373	273	181	70	45	41
Haryana	113	57		57	63	8		8
Himachal Pradesh	37	24	37	18	12	1	1	3
Jammu & Kashmir	30	15		15	13	1	1	2
Karnataka	219	192		109	91	112	98	16
Kerala	190	157	199	95	203	20		14
Kolkata	347	160	221	173	115	38	38	26
Madhya Pradesh	190	143	195	95	68	9		14
Maharashtra	729	510	523	365	391	72	66	55
Mumbai	1122	727	691	561	528	167	167	84
North East	25	15	23	13	6	1		2
Orissa	54	47	86	27	44	5		4
Punjab	177	157		88	104	21	24	13
Rajasthan	211	266		105	0	6		16
Tamil Nadu	199	174	235	100	394	151	32	15
Uttar Pradesh (East)	305	251	262	153	126	9		23
Uttar Pradesh (West)	230	161	211	115	76	12		17
West Bengal	105	74	124	53	35	6		8

Annexure referred to in reply of para (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3907 to be answered on 11th December, 2019 raised by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil, regarding "Network Coverage and Availability of Spectrum"

Fund Disbursed During Last Three Years

Years	Rupees in Crore
2016-17	7227.03
2017-18	6998.76
2018-19	4788.22
