

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

595. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has held the auction of 5G spectrum within the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request from some of the companies to reduce 5G spectrum prices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether BSNL is also planning to launch 5G services within the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which it is likely to be launched; and
- (f) the steps being taken by BSNL to compete with private players within the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b) The spectrum acquired through auction, as being held from time to time, is permitted to be used in a technologically agnostic manner. The Government had sought the recommendations of TRAI on the auction of spectrum in various bands. The recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the subsequent reply from TRAI to DoT's back reference were considered by a Standing Committee in DoT. The recommendations of the Standing Committee were later considered by the Digital Communications Commission (DCC). Subsequently a Draft Cabinet Note (DCN) has been prepared for the auction of the spectrum. The DCN is presently under consideration in the Department. The successful bidders of the spectrum auction can deploy mobile services using any technology including 5G.

(c) to (d) Government has received a request from Broadband India Forum (BIF) stating that 5G prices recommended by TRAI are too high. Concerns on high reserve price were conveyed by the Government to TRAI. However TRAI did not review the prices.

(e) M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has requested DoT to assign spectrum for 5G services on Pan India basis (except for Delhi and Mumbai LSAs).

(f) Government has approved the Revival Package for BSNL to make it competitive.
