

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1608
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2021**

MOBILE USERS AND 5G AUCTIONS

1608. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of mobile users in rural and urban areas of the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the total number of 4G service users in rural and urban areas of the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey on urgency to start 5G telecom services in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government plans to auction 5G spectrum in 2021 and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Chinese companies, including Huawei, will be allowed to participate in the said auctions and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government plans to administratively allocate 5G spectrum to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The service area wise number of mobile telephone connections, which include 2G, 3G and 4G, in rural and urban areas of the country as on 31.12.2020 are given in Annexure.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The Government will conduct auction of right to use spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands in March, 2021. Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for spectrum auction was issued on 06.01.2021. As per the extant policy, auctioned spectrum can be used for deployment of any technology.

(e) Any licensee that holds a UASL (Unified Access Service License) / CMTS (Cellular Mobile Telephone Services) / UL (Unified License) with authorization for Access Services for that LSA (License Service Area); or any licensee that fulfils the eligibility for obtaining a Unified License with authorization for Access Services and gives an undertaking to obtain a Unified License for access service authorization; or any entity that gives an undertaking to obtain a Unified License for access service authorization through a New Entrant Nominee as per the DoT guidelines/license conditions, can bid for the Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz & 2500 MHz Bands subject to other provisions of the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for auction. A Unified License can only be awarded to an Indian Company. Hence, any foreign applicants will need to form or acquire an Indian company to obtain a Unified License. However, they are allowed to participate in the auctions directly and apply for a Unified License subsequently through an Indian company, where they hold equity stake, with a maximum foreign equity up to 100% as per extant guidelines.

(f) The Government approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019. The revival plan inter-alia, includes the measures to administratively allot spectrum to BSNL/MTNL for providing 4G services and funding of spectrum cost through capital infusion by the Government and GST to be paid through budgetary allocation by GoI. The revival plan also includes measures for administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL/MTNL for providing 5G services, spectrum for maintaining current operations and future services on the same principle as for allotment of spectrum for 4G services.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 1608 to be answered on 10th February 2021 regarding Mobile Users and 5G Auctions.

Service area wise total mobile telephone connections in rural and urban areas as on 31.12.2020 is as follows:

(figures in million)

Sr.No.	Service Area	Total mobile telephone connections		
		Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	44.28	43.33	87.62
2	Assam	15.18	8.87	24.05
3	Bihar	55.58	29.32	84.89
4	Gujarat	27.23	40.56	67.78
5	Haryana	12.02	15.12	27.13
6	Himachal Pradesh	7.47	3.58	11.05
7	Jammu & Kashmir	5.57	6.24	11.80
8	Karnataka	27.48	39.75	67.23
9	Kerala	20.53	24.14	44.68
10	Madhya Pradesh	34.39	41.14	75.53
11	Maharashtra	43.37	49.90	93.27
12	North East	6.32	5.90	12.21
13	Odisha	21.88	11.64	33.51
14	Punjab	13.07	24.66	37.73
15	Rajasthan	35.53	29.64	65.16
16	Tamil Nadu	23.66	56.71	80.37
17	Uttar Pradesh (East)	61.31	37.28	98.59
18	Uttar Pradesh (West)	29.66	32.77	62.43
19	West Bengal	33.98	20.88	54.86
20	Kolkata	1.85	24.37	26.21
21	Delhi	2.20	50.39	52.59
22	Mumbai	1.29	33.70	34.99
	All- India	523.83	629.88	1153.71

Source: DoT
