

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1577
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

SATELLITE SPECTRUM

1577. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's decision to allocate satellite spectrum through administrative means rather than auctioning it, is meant to facilitate Starlink's entry into the Indian market;
- (b) if not, the measures taken to ensure that Starlink and its derivative Starshield are not used by non-state actors or hostile nations against India; and
- (c) the projected revenue loss as a result of not auctioning the satellite spectrum?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) No Sir. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides for assignment of spectrum through administrative process for satellite-based services, listed in First Schedule of the Act.
- (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) grants authorisations under Unified License (UL) for providing Satellite-based commercial communication services. Satellite-based communication licenses are granted to any applicant, subject to acceptance and in compliance of the applicable licensing terms and conditions, including security conditions of India.
- (c) Spectrum assigned administratively are also chargeable and hence contribute to revenue. The Department of Telecom (DoT) has sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on terms and conditions of spectrum assignment including spectrum pricing in respect of licensees intending to provide satellite-based communication services while accounting for level playing field with terrestrial access services.
