

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 280  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**

**AUCTION OF SPACE SPECTRUM**

**280 SHRI MANISH TEWARI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government opted for the administrative allocation of space spectrum instead of competitive auctions, given the 2012 Supreme Court ruling mandating auctions for the distribution of natural resources if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to estimate the potential revenue loss or gain from administratively allocating space spectrum, as opposed to auctioning it like terrestrial spectrum if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any justification for not proceeding with the auction of space spectrum; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that administratively allocating space spectrum does not create an unfair cost advantage for new entrants over legacy players who purchased terrestrial spectrum at high auction prices?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Telecommunications Act, 2023 provides for assignment of spectrum through administrative process for services, including certain satellite-based services, listed in First Schedule of The Act. The first schedule can be amended on account of reasons listed in Section 4(5)(a) of The Act. These can be to serve public interest, or to perform government function or where auction of spectrum is not the preferred mode of assignment due to technical or economic reasons.

Further, spectrum assigned administratively or by auction both are chargeable. In line with The Telecommunication Act 2023, 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. TRAI is yet to provide their recommendations to DoT.

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