

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024**

ISSUE OF CALL DROPS AND INTERRUPTED DATA SERVICES

3853. Shri T R Baalu:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the consumers in India are still grappling with basic network issues like voice call drops and interrupted data services and also that inadequate optical fibre infrastructure has further exacerbated the situation;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to address these issues; and
- (c) whether the Government is planning to review the reserve price for 5G spectrum in view of the larger impact of broadband services on the overall economy, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the Performance Monitoring Report of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services for quarter ending Sept-2024 published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), all services providers are meeting the benchmark of all network related Quality of Service (QoS) parameters of Cellular Services except BSNL in Kerala and North East License Service Area.

Further, optical fiber infrastructure in the country is improving over the years. Currently, 41.91 lakh kilometers of optical fiber has been laid nationwide.

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government to facilitate the Telecom Service Providers to address network issues in the country –

- i. Quality of Service benchmarks have been revised by TRAI recently for various parameters to ensure better quality of telecom services.
- ii. Assignment of sufficient spectrum for mobile services through auction.
- iii. Spectrum sharing, trading and surrender has been permitted for efficient use of spectrum.
- iv. Simplification of Procedure for SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations) clearance.
- v. Notification of Telecommunications Right of Way (RoW) Rules and launch of PM GatiShakti Sanchar portal has resulted in streamlining of RoW permissions and expeditious clearance for installation of telecom infrastructure.
- vi. Provision has been made in RoW Rules for time-bound permission for usage of street furniture for installation of small cells and telecommunication line.

(c) The reserve prices along with other terms & conditions for spectrum auction are recommended by TRAI. After consultation with stakeholders, TRAI employs different econometric models and considers other relevant factors to recommend Reserve Prices of different bands in different License Service Areas (LSAs). Accordingly, these recommended reserve prices are finalised by the Government before conduct of every spectrum auction.
