

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1783
ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2025**

GMPCS LICENSES

†1783. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH OLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foreign companies have applied for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licenses in the country and if so, the details of processing status and the measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency;
- (b) whether the Government has granted permission to Starlink to provide satellite-based internet services for improving connectivity in rural and remote areas and if so, the details of conditions for license, regulatory compliance, data security measures and its impact on domestic internet providing companies;
- (c) whether the public-private satellite partnership models being proposed by the Government are genuinely aimed at reducing the digital divide or merely intended to benefit a few selected private companies and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to expand these models and if so, the details of policy framework, accountability mechanisms, spectrum usage and security protocols of the said models; and
- (e) the time by when the said details are likely to be made available?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) grants Unified License (UL) with authorisation of Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) services to an applicant only if it is an Indian company, registered under the Companies Act, 2013, and agrees to comply with all the stipulated terms and conditions of the UL, including security conditions.
- (b) to (e) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) granted Unified License (UL) with authorization for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) Service, Commercial VSAT CUG service, and Internet Service Provider (ISP) 'A' service for the entire country (National Area) to Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited, a company registered under Companies Act, 2013.

The license conditions, inter-alia, include the establishment of earth station gateway(s) in India for providing satellite-based communication services, no user traffic originating from, or destined for India is to be routed through any gateway located outside India, no copying and

decryption of the Indian data outside the country, and the Indian user traffic not to be mirrored to any system/server located abroad.

Satellite-based communication services can provide connectivity in rural, underserved and unserved areas including remote and mountainous regions, which are otherwise difficult to be covered through terrestrial media such as optical fiber, microwave, etc. It is also mentioned that as per the License conditions, the licensee will provide satellite-based communication services without any discrimination from any applicant at any place in the service area for the service(s) authorized. This will support in bridging the digital divide, addressing the last mile connectivity issues and promoting equitable access to digital services. Further, it is envisaged that with more licensees for providing satellite-based communication services, enhanced competition in this segment will lead to better quality and affordable services.
