

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 12
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2018**

AUCTIONING OF 5G SPECTRUM

12. SHRI OM BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hold auction of 5G Spectrum in the current financial year and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said auction is likely to be done;
- (b) whether the BSNL and MTNL will be introducing the 5G technology to its customers by directly shifting from 3G to 5G spectrum services in most of their circles and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any specialised mechanism has been formed by the Government to carry out the spectrum bidding/auctioning so that transparency and accountability in such cases can be maintained and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has prepared any special plan for the implementation of the 5G technology in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has planned auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz bands. Accordingly, a reference has been sent to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 19.04.2017 seeking recommendations on the Reserve Price for auction of right to use the spectrum.

It is for information that the standardisation work in respect of 5G technology is in progress in the International Telecom Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland under the official name of IMT (International Mobile Telecommunication) 2020. After completion of the standardisation work, the frequency bands already auctioned and proposed to be auctioned can be utilised for deployment of 5G technology.

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(b) & (c) At present, BSNL has no proposal for introducing the 5G technology to their customers by directly shifting from 3G to 5G spectrum services. MTNL also has no plan to launch 5G services as on date.

(d) For ensuring transparency and accountability, the Government has adopted the following measures in the spectrum auctions:

- (i) The details of auction are transparently placed in public domain through a 'Notice Inviting Application' (NIA) which includes inter alia, the rules of auction process, timelines, details of spectrum being auctioned eligibility criteria, procedure for awarding spectrum.
- (ii) The process is open to all potential bidders on a non-discriminatory basis.
- (iii) The process allows for queries to be raised by potential bidders and such concerns are addressed through a 'Queries and Responses' document which is also placed on the website of DoT.
- (iv) The auctioneer is selected through a transparent Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- (v) The auction is conducted over the internet through an Electronic Auction System (EAS) which is subjected to security audit by Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) before being applied. The EAS is a designated computer resource for the receiving of electronic records under the provisions of section 13 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, as amended.
- (vi) Back up of all the auction data including bids received in each round done in real time and is available for subsequent analysis and audit.
- (vii) Prior to the start of the auction, the Government makes public the list of pre-qualified bidders as well as the information about their ownership structures.
- (viii) At the end of each day of the auction, details of clock rounds completed, aggregate demand and provisional bidding price are put up on the website of DoT.

(e) The Government has constituted High Level Forum for 5G India 2020 on 22nd September 2017 to work on the following, for both urban and rural areas:

- Vision, Mission and Goals for the 5G India 2020, and
- Evaluate, approve roadmaps & action plans for 5G India 2020.
