GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289
ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2025

ALLOCATION OF SATELLITE SPECTRUM

1289   SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the companies to which satellite spectrum has been allocated and the criteria, terms and conditions and rates at which such allocation has been made;

(b)   whether any national security audit has been done before spectrum allocation;

(c)   the manner in which Government will ensure that satellite internet will not be misused by militant groups to circumvent Government internet restrictions as has happened in Manipur in the recent past; and

(d)   the steps being taken by Government to prevent cartelisation in the satellite internet sector?

ANSWER

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

(a)   Spectrum has not been assigned to any company intending to provide Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO)-based internet services in India.

(b)   Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)   For providing satellite internet services, companies need to obtain service license authorizations from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Suitable security conditions have been incorporated in the service license authorizations.

The security conditions include establishment of earth station gateway(s) in India for providing the service, user traffic originating from or destined for India not to be routed through any gateway located outside India, provision of the Lawful interception and monitoring facility in India, localisation of data, no copying and decryption of the Indian data outside the country, continuous tracking of the user terminals, etc.

(d)   The satellite internet sector is open to competition under a regulated licensing framework. Entry of multiple service providers and transparent licensing mechanism facilitate fair competition in the sector.

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