

4G auction

2316. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has opposed Government's view that 4G band be auctioned in two arts;

(b) whether TRAI is of the view that telcos be allowed to pay 10 per cent of the winning bid initially for any spectrum in an auction and the balance, including interest, could be spread across next 18 years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that if Government accepts it, telcos will get a 19 year payment period over the 20 years for which they have the right to use spectrum, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations dated 27.1.2016 on "Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz Bands" recommended, *inter alia*, that entire available spectrum (2x35 MHz) in the 700 MHz band should be put to auction in the upcoming auction. The Government sought certain clarifications/ reconsidered opinion of the TRAI on some of its recommendations, which included, *inter-alia*, whether the entire available spectrum in 700 MHz band be put to auction or the spectrum of 35+35 MHz be split in two phases *i.e.* 20+20 MHz in first phase and 15+15 MHz in second phase. The TRAI has reiterated its earlier recommendation in its response dated 18.4.2016 to reference, back made by the Government. These reconsidered recommendations of TRAI are under consideration.

(b) and (c) The TRAI, in its reconsidered recommendations dated 18.4.2016, has recommended, *inter alia*, the payment schedule options for successful bidder in the forthcoming auction for all spectrum bands (*i.e.* 700/800/900/1800/2100/2300/2500 MHz) as below:

(i) Full upfront payment of bid amount or

(ii) Following schedule for deferred payment (instalment scheme) of the bid amount:-

Spectrum	Initial Payment	Period for balance payment
All Spectrum Bands (<i>i.e.</i> 700/800/900/1800/ 2100/2300/ 2500 MHz)	10% of the Bid amount	18 years (18 equal annual instalments with interest)

The 1st instalment of the balance amount shall become due on the first anniversary of the date on which the upfront payment was made. Subsequent instalment shall become due on the same date of each following year. In case successful bidder after payment of some annual instalments, chooses to prepay the entire or part amount of the outstanding principle, he may be allowed to exercise the option of full or part prepayment.

The above recommendations of TRAI are under consideration.

Fixing minimum download speed

2317. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed that fixed broadband operators must ensure a minimum 512 kbps download speed at all times, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether TRAI's direction was on the basis of an amended broadband definition notified by Telecom Department in July, 2013; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that telecos have opposed the directive of TRAI to fix net speed, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has informed that on the basis of amended broadband definition notified by Department of Telecommunications in July, 2013, it has hosted on its website the draft direction to service providers for delivering broadband services in a transparent manner by providing adequate information to broadband customers inviting comments and counter comments from stakeholders. The last dates for receipt of comments and counter comments were 10/02/2016 and 17/02/2016 respectively. TRAI is examining all comments and counter comments to issue necessary directions to the service providers.

Digital India programme

†2318. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme during the last one and half year to facilitate consumers and to materialize the Digital India programme of the Prime Minister, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.