

Valuation of spectrum depends upon a large numbers of socio-economic and regulatory factors and is ultimately determined by bidders in an auction. Hence it is difficult to determine targets for spectrum auction. Only Reserve Price of each band of spectrum in each Licensed Service Area (LSA) put to auction had been fixed by the Government on the basis of recommendations of TRAI.

However, auction revenue estimates for budgeting purpose, and actual revenue realization against the estimates, are as follows:

Year	Revenue Estimate (₹ in cr.)*	Achievement (Actual Receipts) (₹ in cr.)*
2013-14	11343	18267.18
2014-15	Nil	10791.08
2015-16	16000	21587.00
2016-17	34,586	32434.10

\* This includes receipts from deferred payments apart from the upfront auction amounts

(b) and (c) No bid was received in any of the 22 LSAs in 700 MHz band, nor in 4 LSAs in 900 MHz bands respectively. Absence of ecosystem including the non-availability of devices together with industry perception of high reserve price appears to be the main reason for no bids in the 70Q MHz band. The other possible reasons could be high debt level of many major players and need for bidders to preserve cash for roll-out and defending market share in view of new launches.

#### **TRAI's suggestions on net neutrality**

1992. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interministerial Telecom Commission cleared the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's suggestions on Net Neutrality that bars service providers from discriminating against internet content and services by blocking, throttling or granting them higher speed access;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018, which aims to attract US \$ 100 billion investment and ensure a broadband speed of 50 Mbps for all citizens, was also cleared; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 11th July, 2018, has granted its approval to the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Net Neutrality, with minor modifications, upholding the principles of Net Neutrality.

(b) The Telecom Commission has also cleared the draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018, which was released on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations, with minor modifications in its meeting held on 11th July, 2018.

(c) Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of Net Neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country. To ensure that the regulatory framework adheres to the fundamental principles and concepts of Net Neutrality, the policy directives on Net Neutrality have been issued incorporating the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content.

The draft National Digital Communications Policy - 2018 has several goals to achieve the overall objectives of the policy. The policy *inter-alia* contains following goals:

- (i) Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector,
- (ii) Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50 Mbps to every citizen.

It is proposed to achieve the goals by catalysing investments for digital communications sector and establishing a 'National Broadband Mission - Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan' to secure universal broadband access.

#### **Collection from licence fee and spectrum charges**

1993. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's collection from licence fee and spectrum charges has fallen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this reflects financial difficulties being faced by the Telecom sector;