

(c) whether it is a fact that as much as 2354.55 MHz of frequencies valued to about ₹5.63 lakh crore were put for grabs in country's largest ever auction held in 2016;

(d) whether mobile phone signals in the country are transmitted in 8000 MHz to 2600 MHz band at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations on auction of spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz and 3300-3600 MHz bands for providing mobile services deploying any technology, including 5G, is under consideration.

(c) In the last auction held in October 2016, a total of 2354.75 MHz spectrum across seven bands *i.e* 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands and spread over 22 LSAs, with a total reserve price of ₹ 5.67 lakh crore, was put-up for auction.

(d) and (e) At present spectrum in the frequency bands 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands have been allotted to Telecom Service Providers for providing Telecom Services.

#### **Review of telecom regulator's recommendations**

2732. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has realized that comprehensive review on issues like spectrum auctions, reserve prices to give relief to telecoms, sale of all spectrums, benefits of 5G to social sectors, etc. is essential;

(b) if so, what action Government proposes to take;

(c) whether the minimum price bracket suggested by TRAI for auction of 5G services is unrealistic and very high in comparison to other countries and many private players are not likely to participate in the auction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action Government proposes to take in larger interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given its recommendations on various issues pertaining to Auction of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz, 3400-3600 MHz Bands dated 1.8.2018. The Government will decide on the pricing of spectrum and other issues, after considering the recommendations of TRAI.

(c) and (d) In its recommendations dated 1.8.2018, TRAI has stated that after analysis of the Auction of 3300-3600 MHz in various countries, it is evident that due to lack of adequate comparable data points, international benchmarking may not be appropriate for current valuation exercise for these bands. In respect of 700MHz band, TRAI has recommended the reserve prices after considering the pricing in other countries, as well as the technical efficiency factors. Private players will participate in the auction depending upon their spectrum requirements.

#### **Banking services in post offices of rural areas**

2733. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of Post Offices in the country which have been providing the services of India Post Payments Bank;

(b) whether a large number of Post Offices in rural areas are yet to start their banking services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) A total of 1,36,078 Post Offices are providing the services of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as its access points.

(b) All Post Offices in rural areas offer banking services including savings, insurance and remittance services.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.