GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 338 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2021 Auction of 2250 MHz telecommunication spectrum of 7 bands for 5 years

- Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:
 Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:
- (a) whether telecommunication spectrum of 2250 MHz of 7 bands with a reserved price of over 4 lakh crores could fetch only Rs.77814 crore as there was no taker for the spectrum beyond 866.60 MHz;
- (b) if so, the reason(s) why the post-auction scenario was not realized before the start of auction and the reserved price of auction calculated in realistic terms;
- (c) whether Government would start the auction process for the unsold spectrum in near future after assessing the situation in realistic terms; and
- (d) if so, by when the process is likely to begin?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

- (a) The Government has conducted auction of right to use spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands in March 2021. Total of 2308.8 MHz spectrum was put to auction with cumulative Reserve Price of Rs. 400396.20 Crore. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have acquired right to use 855.60 MHz of spectrum worth Rs. 77820.82 crore in the auction in various bands, for a period of 20 years.
- (b) Reserve Price of each band of spectrum in each Licensed Service Area (LSA) is fixed by the Government after considering the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The bidders in a spectrum auction acquire rights to use spectrum as per their network/business plans.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Government is considering to send a reference to TRAI seeking its recommendations on issues involved in auction of spectrum available with the Government, for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) services.
