



To
Shri K Rajaraman, IAS
Secretary
Department of Telecommunication
Sanchar Bhawan New Delhi-110001

October 6, 2021

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sparing your valuable time for meeting with me last Friday. I would like to welcome you formally as the leader of the Telecom fraternity in India.

As mentioned during my courtesy call, we would like to call on you and present the following key spectrum related issues in person on a suitable date/time next week:

- 1. Allocation of 26 /28 GHz spectrum for 5G and satellites:** The 26 GHz millimeter wave band from 24.25 GHz to 27.5 GHz (26 GHz) needs to be urgently allocated for 5G/IMT2020. This band has been globally harmonized by the ITU for 5G/IMT-2020. At the same time the 28 GHz band from 27.5 GHz to 29.5 GHz should be allocated for broadband satellite services. This ensures that both 5G and satellites have adequate spectrum in the millimeter wave to support India's connectivity needs.
- 2. Auction of 5G spectrum:** Critical spectrum in 700 MHz, 3.6 GHz and 26 GHz has been lying idle for many years awaiting government decision on reserve price for spectrum auctions. The current reserve price for 700 MHz is way beyond any economic justifications and has not been sold in the last two auctions. Similarly, the 5G spectrum in mm wave band need to be auctions at zero reserve price to encourage the industry to use this band.
- 3. Delicensing of V band:** Various economists have pointed out that de-licensing of V band could unleash an unprecedented economic growth and increased GDP. The estimated Economic Value of Wi-Fi in the unlicensed spectrum bands (including V band) in India is expected to be about 12.7 lakh Crores (for GDP at current prices) in 2025. The V band spectrum has mostly been sitting idle in the country while most developed countries are enjoying increased economic development by using these frequency bands. The V-band offers a wireless solution that can speedily help meet the aspirations of PM-WANI. We strongly recommend that the Ministry of Communications should immediately delicense the V band.
- 4. Allocation of 4G/5G spectrum for Industry 4.0 and other captive networks:** The Industrial competitive advantage for the post covid-19 era depends on the Integration of Information technology (IT) to build automation, agility and intelligence across key manufacturing sectors. For Smart automated factories of today, it is critical to harness the advantages of digital technologies by moving gigantic amount of data up and down with minimum delay and superfast speeds.

Until now, connectivity has remained a critical barrier to realizing the full potential of what is collectively known as Industry 4.0. The emergence of ultrafast LTE and 5G technology in higher frequency bands provides manufacturers with this capability and many industrial advanced countries have allocated separate bands for this purpose. India needs to do the same.

5. **Administrative assignment of spectrum to various captive users & for satellite services;** The issue of administrative assignment has been pending with DOT since 2013 and needs to be decided soon by filing necessary clarifications with the Hon'ble Supreme court of India.
6. **Spectrum for Satellite Gateway Earth Stations:** Following the announcement by the Hon'ble minister of Finance, Mrs. Nirmala Seetharaman on 16th May 2020, welcoming private sector participation in the satellite sector, DOT needs to come out with a policy for assignment of spectrum for gateway earth stations for GSO and NGSO satellites.

We look forward to an early appointment for a short presentation on these issues by our key members.

With Warm Regards

Yours truly,

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