

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 403
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

FOREIGN SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICES

403 SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to launch or permit foreign satellite internet services, such as Starlink, to operate in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the regulatory framework established to govern such services, particularly regarding data security and compliance with Indian laws;
- (c) the steps taken to promote domestic satellite internet services to ensure affordable internet access, especially in remote and underserved areas; and
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the potential impact of foreign satellite internet providers on local telecom and internet service industries and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (b) Department of Telecommunications grants authorizations under the Unified License (UL) for providing Satellite-based commercial communication services. As per the Unified Licensing framework, the applicant must be an Indian company registered under the Indian Companies Act-2013. Satellite-based communication license may be granted to an applicant subject to compliance with the applicable licensing terms and conditions, including security conditions. Further, an Authorization from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is also required for any foreign or Indian satellite system/constellation to provide its space capacity over India.

(c) DoT's Satellite Communication Reforms-2022 have simplified the regulatory procedures and reduced financial charges on the licensees. The recent Space Sector reforms enable larger participation of non-government entities for building/leasing, owning and operating the satellite systems for providing satellite-based services. Many operators have applied for authorization for providing satellite communication over India, including in remote and underserved areas.

(d) The satellite-based communication service licensees are required to comply with all the terms and conditions of the licensing framework, including security conditions. It is envisaged that competition in this segment will lead to better quality and affordable services along with expansion of coverage in rural and far-flung areas.
