

From Surya Foundation,

Spectrum is a complex issue and has in the recent months acquired national relevance. TRAI has to be complimented for bringing the issue in focus. The Consultation Paper 6/2009 and the discussions held in the Open House from 30th Nov to 2nd Dec have been informative and professional.

Spectrum is a national resource and has to be given the reverence it deserves. In this background we don't recommend trading in spectrum. However, sharing of spectrum may be considered, keeping in view the large requirements. The guidelines. for this would have to be defined and cases decided on merit individually.

Some service providers are using high levels of power emissions, presumably for commercial advantages. This is understood to be causing harm to bird life and might also lead to harm to human life. Perhaps a more detailed study is called for and may require a cap on the level of power emission.

There seems to be broad consensus on the optimum bandwidth viz 6.2 MHz for GSM and 5 MHz for CDMA technology based operations. However, the service providers and their associations have been stating that for the same bandwidth, the large number of service providers, was resulting in the deterioration of service. This is a very serious issue and a view has to be taken on this. If their contention were correct then the number of subscribers would have to be restricted, which would be against the commercial interest of service providers. A choice will have to be made between this and the quality of service.

Whatever be the optimum bandwidth, the stand of the Government should be to ask the service provider, to surrender the excess spectrum, which can then be considered, for sharing by the Government, as stated above.

For spectrum beyond the optimum bandwidth, the service provider should be charged, for each MHz, say down payment of Rs 500, 450 and 400 crores for category A B and C Circles. In addition to this revenue sharing will have to be done.

Spectrum allotment should be for a period of five years and should be reviewed after this period and based on this review, service provider maybe considered for additional allotment. .

A 3 MHz slot in 1800 MHz band can be given for in-building use. The street furniture should also be used and a policy for the same needs to be evolved.

To: Shri Sudhir Gupta, Advisor (MN), TRAI
E-mail: advmn@trai.gov.in

Copy To : Shri Anil Prakash
E-mail : anilprakash@yahoo.com