

In Brief: Defense gets priority on India spectrum

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It will be up to India's military to determine how much new wireless spectrum will be turned over to civilian telcos, Indian media reported Friday.

Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in a letter to India's parliament, the Rajya Sabha, that the "decision to vacate spectrum for cellular operators is made on a case-to-case basis after ensuring that defense requirements are fully met and are not affected adversely."

Mukherjee's letter was in reply to the parliament's request to know if the government would be turning over 45 Megahertz of its reserved communications spectrum to the private sector for the expansion of wireless service.

Press Trust India said Friday that increasingly crowded spectrum has been blamed for slow expansion and quality issues in the civilian wireless sector.

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