

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 06
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2018**

ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNICATION SECTOR

†6. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major achievements of the Government in communication sector during each of the last three years;
- (b) the details of the target set in the said sector during the current financial year; and
- (c) the details of the action plan formulated by the Government for the next two years to strengthen the aforesaid sector?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) The details of major achievement of the Department of Telecommunications are at **Annexure**.
- (b) The details of major targets set by the Department of Telecommunications during the current financial year are as under:
 - i. To start work under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-II project, wherein 4072 mobile towers would be set up for providing mobile services in locations identified by MHA.
 - ii. To connect the balance Gram Panchayats with last mile high speed broadband connection under the BharatNet Phase II Project.
 - iii. To complete enhancement of satellite bandwidth from 1 Gbps to 2 Gbps in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
 - iv. To start work of laying of submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
 - v. To issue National Digital Communications Policy -2018.

- vi. To lay the balance OFC under the Network for Spectrum (NFS) project.
 - vii. To set up 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots at existing rural exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
 - viii. To provide connectivity to uncovered villages of the North Eastern Region (NER).
- (c) The action plan proposed for the next two years are as under:
- i. To complete the ongoing projects such as: LWE Phase II, NFS, A&N Islands connectivity through submarine OFC, connectivity in the NER.
 - ii. To start work for providing connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands.
 - iii. To start work on the objectives of the proposed National Digital Communications Policy -2018, such as:
 - (a) Provide Universal broadband connectivity to every citizen.
 - (b) Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
 - (c) Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions.
 - (d) Achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022.
 - (e) Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022.
 - (f) Provide connectivity to all uncovered areas.

Major Achievements of the Department of Telecommunications during the last three years

Some of the major achievements are:

1. Most Transparent Spectrum Auctions

- a. Cumulative 1,736 MHz of Spectrum was auctioned between 2014 and 2016 700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 & 2500 MHz bands
- b. Spectrum auction fetched highest ever upfront payment of nearly Rs. 65,000 Crores in 2015 and 2016
- c. DoT received an Excellence Award from CVC in November 2017 for “**Transparency in e-auction of spectrum in 2016**”

2. Key Reforms in the Telecom Sector

- a. Spectrum trading and sharing allowed to boost competition
- b. Spectrum harmonization undertaken resulting in freeing up of 197 MHz spectrum
- c. Sharing of Passive (e.g. fibre, towers) and Active (e.g. BTSs) infrastructure allowed
- d. Deferred payment of liabilities allowed for Telecom Service Providers to reduce financial stress in sector
- e. Easing of Right of Way (RoW) Rules and charges through notification
- f. Aadhaar based e-KYC for issuing mobile connections enabled
- g. Full Mobile Number Portability enabled
- h. Virtual Network Operators (VNOs) license introduced for effective infrastructure utilization and to boost services in under-served areas

3. Telecom Infrastructure

- a. No. of mobile BTS more than doubled from 7.9 Lakh in May 2014 to ~ 18 Lakh in May 2018
- b. 3 Lakh KMOFC laid by Department
- c. Average of more than 200 KM of OFC laid per day
- d. 1 lakh Gram Panchayats connected through High Speed OFC network
- e. Significant boost to Make-in-India; Telecom equipment deployed in BharatNet has been fully designed, developed and manufactured in India.
- f. Triggered ITI turnaround; turned Profitable for first time in 16 years

4. Improved Coverage of Telecom Services

- a. Overall Tele-density in the country increased to 93% in March 2018.
- b. Mobile Internet subscriptions almost doubled from 233 Million in March 2014 to 496 Million in March 2018.
- c. Over 75% increase in Internet Coverage
- d. Average mobile data usage per subscriber grew 31 times– from 62 MB per month in 2014 to 1.9 GB per month in December 2017
- e. Highest mobile data consumption globally at 1.5 Billion GB per month
- f. Cheapest tariff globally –Rs. 21 per GB

- g. More than 350 million broadband subscribers added

5. Economic Impact

- a. Huge jump in FDI inflows in Telecom Sector – from \$1.3 Bn in 2015-16 to \$6.1 Bn in 2017-18
- b. Digital payment transactions through mobile more than doubled from 168 million in November 2016 to 380 million in December 2017.

6. Other Projects being undertaken (in progress)

- a. Network for Spectrum
 - i. Almost 90% (51,000 km) of OFC has been laid in the past three years.
 - ii. Project with revised estimate of ~ INR 24,000 Crores
 - iii. On completion of this project, Defence Forces will have a fully dedicated and secure network with in-built redundancy
- b. Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas
 - i. 2,335 Towers installed in Phase I, with a total outlay of Rs. 4,781 Cr
 - ii. 4,072 Towers approved for installation in Phase II by 2020, with total outlay of Rs. 7,330 Cr
- c. North East Region
 - i. Biggest ever Telecom spend in North East Region of Rs. 10,834 Crores (ongoing and planned projects)
 - ii. 7,000 telecom towers to be installed for connectivity to over 8,600 villages
 - iii. 3,200 KM of OFC network to be laid
- d. Submarine Cable Connectivity
 - i. Submarine cable connectivity to mainland Andaman & Nicobar islands
 - ii. Intra island connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands
 - iii. Total outlay of Rs. 2,250 Crores
- e. Provisioning of Wi-Fi Services
 - i. 25,000 hot spots by BSNL in rural exchanges
 - ii. 7,000 hot spots (e-Choupals) by Common Service Centers
