GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2018

ROLL-OUT OF 5G TECHNOLOGY

3262. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether India has flaunted its technological prowess to roll-out 5G technology, by sending a delegation to the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona;

(b)   whether in the Budget speech, the Finance Minister committed support to a 5G test-bed at the IIT, Chennai;

(c)   whether going by the problems that beset the Indian telecom sector at present, the most optimistic timelines do not envisage 5G roll-outs in India until 2020; and

(d)   whether the majority of Indian subscribers are still using the 20 year old 2G technology and handsets?

ANSWER

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

(a)   Sir, a Ministerial Delegation from Department of Telecommunications participated in the Mobile World Congress held recently at Barcelona during February, 2018 to share various initiatives of the Government and explore available opportunities in the field of telecom technology including 5G. During their visit, Indian delegation had various bilateral and multilateral meetings and interactions with participating countries, agencies and exhibitors to leverage global expertise on latest technologies in the field of telecommunications for the benefit of India's inclusive development.

(b)   Yes, Sir. While delivering the budget speech 2018-2019 on February 1, 2018, Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance mentioned that:

"To harness the benefit of emerging new technologies, particularly the 'Fifth Generation' (5G) technologies and its adoption, the Department of Telecom will support establishment of an indigenous 5G Test Bed at IIT, Chennai."

(c)   5G technology is presently at development stage and specifications for the same are yet to be finalized by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Government of India has initiated steps for holistic development of 5G ecosystem in India so as to be in line with the global developments for rolling out 5G technology in the country.

(d)   Technology to be deployed is decided by the individual telecom service providers based on their assessment of evolving demand and competition in the market. Considering the demographic and economic diversity, India is deploying not only 2G and 3G services but 4G services as well to ensure use of telecom services for implementation of Government schemes and for inclusive growth of Indian citizens and economy.

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