

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1320**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE ON DEFENCE LAND**

1320. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has revised its rules to allow installation of telecommunication infrastructure on defence land for improving communication network facilities and facilitating 5G rollout, if so, the details of the amended rules;
- (b) whether it will safeguard the security of our nation;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that now cantonment boards and station headquarters can grant permission for installation of telecom infrastructure on defence land; and
- (d) if so, how this scheme will help in the remote and difficult areas, some of which fall in the North East Region?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

- (a): Yes, Sir. Government of India, Ministry of Defence vide letter No. 11026/1/2005/D(Lands)(Pt.II) dated 18.01.2023 has issued a revised policy for installation of under / over ground telecom infrastructure on defence land, in consonance with the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 (as amended from time to time).
- (b): The new policy prescribes sufficient safeguards to ensure security inside defence area.
- (c): Yes, Sir. The Cantonment Boards and Station Headquarters have been designated as "Appropriate Authority" under Rule 2 (b) of the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 for Cantonments and Military Stations, respectively.
- (d): The ibid policy dated 18.01.2023 is applicable to all Cantonments & Military stations in remote and field areas including North East region also. The power to accord approvals have been delegated to Cantonment Boards and Station Headquarters, as the case may be, to expedite the approvals.

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