GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2727
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2024

VIKSIT BHARAT BY 2047

2727   SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a)   the efforts made by the Ministry to achieve the vision to make India a developed Nation by 2047 in the last five years;

(b)   whether the Ministry has formulated any roadmap or action plan to realize the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 in communications sector;

(c)   if so, the details thereof;

(d)   whether the Ministry is evaluating new policies/schemes and legislative proposals based on their potential contribution towards achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047; and

(e)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)

(a)   The Government has made several efforts in the last five years to align with the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047 in various fields of Telecommunications. The government has undertaken the following key initiatives:

i.   The government has expanded India's digital infrastructure by enabling 5G rollout, connecting the Gram Panchayats via BharatNet, and implementing schemes for mobile connectivity in the North East, Islands, LWE(Left Wing Extremism)- affected areas, border villages, and aspirational districts. Key projects include the 4G Saturation Scheme for uncovered villages, submarine OFC links (Chennai-Andaman in 2020, Kochi-Lakshadweep in 2024), and OFC networks in Lakshadweep to enable high-speed mobile and data services.

ii.   The government has established 5G testbeds in partnership with leading academic institutions to support startups, MSMEs, and industry in developing 5G applications. Additionally, 100 educational institutions across the country have been awarded '5G Use Case Labs' to foster skill development, encourage the creation of 5G applications, and prepare the ecosystem for 6G. To boost research and development, the government also launched the Digital Communication Innovation Square (DCIS) scheme, which has

supported several startups in developing intellectual property (IPR), indigenous telecom solutions, and promoting entrepreneurship. Further, Department of Telecommunications launched the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, effective from April 2021 to promote domestic manufacturing, investment and exports of telecom and networking products with a total outlay of Rs. 12,195 crore.

iii.   Hon'ble PM released India's 6G Vision "Bharat 6G Vision" document on March 23, 2023, which aims to make India a global leader in 6G technology by 2030, focusing on Affordability, Sustainability, and Ubiquity. In furtherance, the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA), established on July 3, 2023, brings together startups, companies, and manufacturers to drive 6G innovation and deployment in India while ensuring that the technology is sustainable and greener.

iv.   The government has strengthened its role in global telecom standardization efforts by hosting the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024, which showcased India's advancements in digital technology and its commitment to shaping international telecom standards and policies.

v.   The government has streamlined spectrum allocation through auctions, financial reforms (AGR, bank guarantees, interest rates), and allowed spectrum sharing, trading, and surrender. Initiatives like simplified SACFA clearances, Right of Way Rules, and the PM GatiShakti Sanchar Portal ensure faster telecom infrastructure approvals, including time-bound permissions for using street furniture for small cells.

vi.   The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced following citizen centric measures to combat telecom-related cybercrimes and frauds:

* A system to detect and reverify mobile connections obtained with fake documents.
* The Sanchar Saathi Portal for citizens to report fraud, manage mobile connections, and block lost handsets.
* The Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) for sharing misuse data across TSPs, banks, police, and agencies.
* A system with TSPs to block international spoofed calls using Indian numbers, targeting scams like fake arrests and impersonation.

(b) & (c)   The telecommunications sector, being highly dynamic and rapidly evolving, makes it impractical to establish roadmaps extending beyond five years. Instead, it focuses on short-term policies such as the National Digital Communications Policy, which serves as a guiding framework for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

(d) & (e)   DoT finalized and enacted the Indian Telecommunications Act, 2023 which overhauls telecom regulations, replacing the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. Enforcement of the Act's provisions and rules will enable effective and modern regulation of Telecom sector.

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