LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.97
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2017

TELECOM POLICY

*97.   SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the salient features of present telecom policy;

(b)   whether the Government has assessed the policy and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government proposes to bring a pan-India telecom policy;

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e)   the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e)   A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.97 FOR 8TH FEBRUARY, 2017 REGARDING "TELECOM POLICY".

(a)   The vision of the National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12) is to provide secure, reliable, affordable and high quality converged telecommunication services anytime, anywhere for an accelerated inclusive socio-economic development. The salient features of NTP-12 are placed at **Annexure-I.**

(b)   The provisions of NTP-12 are at various stages of implementation with timelines spread up to 2020.

(c) to (e)   The existing National Telecom Policy is a pan-India policy and as such there is no proposal to bring a new pan-India telecom policy in this financial year.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY

1. Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.

2. Strive to create One Nation – one License across services and service areas.

3. Simplify the licensing framework to further extend converged high quality services across the nation including rural and remote areas. This will not cover content regulation.

4. Put in place a simplified Merger and Acquisition regime in teleecom service sector while ensuring adequate competition.

5. Mandate an ecosystem to ensure setting up of a common platform for interconnection of various networks for providing non-exclusive and non-discriminatory access.

6. Increase rural teledensity to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020, recognising telecom, including broadband connectivity as a basic necessity like education and health and work towards 'Right to Broadband'.

7. Provision of affordable and reliable broadband-on-demand by the year 2015 and to achieve 175 million broadband connections by the year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.

8. Provision of high speed and high quality broadband access to all village panchayats through a combination of technologies by the year 2014 and progressively to all villages and habitations by 2020.

9. Promote the ecosystem for design, Research and Development, IPR creation, testing, standardization and manufacturing i.e. complete value chain for domestic production of telecommunication equipment to meet Indian telecom sector demand

10. Provide preference to domestically manufactured telecommunication products, in procurement of those telecommunication products which have security implications for the country and in Government procurement for its own use, consistent with our World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments

11. Address the Right of Way (RoW) issues in setting up of telecom infrastructure.

12. Ensure adequate availability of spectrum and its allocation in a transparent manner through market related processes. Make available additional 300 MHz spectrum for IMT services by the year 2017 and another 200 MHz by 2020.

13. Achieve substantial transition to new Internet Protocol (IPv 6) in the country in a phased and time bound manner by 2020 and encourage an ecosystem for provision of a significantly large bouquet of services on IP platform.

14. To facilitate the role of new technologies in furthering public welfare and enhanced customer choices through affordable access and efficient service delivery. The emergence of new service formats such as Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications(e.g. remotely operated irrigation pumps, smart grid etc.) represent tremendous opportunities, especially as their roll-out becomes more widespread."

15. To assess the manpower requirement at different skill and expertise level by partnering with National Skill Development Council and industry to identify the relevant needs of the sector and prepare a roadmap.

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