

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1492
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH DECEMBER, 2017**

SATELLITE PHONES

1492. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has asked all the satellite phone users in the country to migrate to the network provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) by July 31, 2017 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to phase out the satellite phone service and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the BSNL is well equipped to provide Global Satellite Phone Services and if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said services are likely to be launched?

ANSWER

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

(a) Madam, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was granted a license on 25.08.2014 for "Provision and operation of satellite based service using Gateway installed in India" with all India service area on non-exclusive basis. BSNL has installed and commissioned Gateway at Ghaziabad, India to provide satellite phone service. The services from the Gateway installed by BSNL were inaugurated on 24.05.2017. Prior to BSNL Gateway, satellite phone services in India were being provided by M/s Tata Communications Limited (TCL). These services were nearing the End of Life (EOL) as declared by TCL and were to be phased out. Further, there are some Inmarsat Satellite Phone - IsatPhone Pro and IsatPhone2 users who are using satellite phone services in India through Inmarsat Gateways located abroad.

As the BSNL Gateway is now operational in India having Lawful Interception and Monitoring facilities, BSNL asked all the customers availing satellite phone services through TCL gateway and Inmarsat Satellite Phone - IsatPhone Pro and IsatPhone2 users to migrate to BSNL network by July 31, 2017.

(b) The Mini-M and GAN satellite phone service being provided by M/s Tata Communications Limited have reached End of Life (EOL) and hence have been stopped on 31.10.2017.

(c) Yes, BSNL is well equipped to provide Global Satellite Phone Service and is already providing satellite phone service to various Government agencies since its launch on 24.05.2017.
