GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1543
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH DECEMBER, 2017

NEW TELECOM POLICY

1543. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
        SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
        SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the details of the objectives and vision of the National Telecom Policy (NTP) along with the extent to which such objectives have been achieved by the Government so far;

(b)   the details of the funds allocated, released and utilized under the NTP since inception;

(c)   whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities/ corruption/diversion of funds in implementation of the policy since inception;

(d)   if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such complaints so far; and

(e)   the number of villages that have been connected with the telecom network since inception of the policy across the country, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a)   The Department of Telecommunications envisages to formulate a new National Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector. The work on formulation of National Telecom Policy-2018 has been initiated and targeted to be finalised by March, 2018. However, the objectives and vision of the existing National Telecom Policy and its achievements thereof are enclosed at **Annexure-I.**

(b) to (d):   National Telecom Policy lays down a 'broad framework' to create an enabling ecosystem for providing affordable and effective communications to the citizens. It does not have any financial outlays. As such, the question of irregularities/corruption/diversion of funds under National Telecom Policy does not arise.

(e):   State/UT-wise details of villages connected with the telecom network are enclosed at **Annexure-II.**

STATUS OF OBJECTIVES/ACHIEVEMENTS OF NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY 2012

S.No.	Objectives envisaged in NTP-12	Status of implementation
1.	Provide secure, affordable and high quality telecommunication services to all citizens	TSPs are mandated to take adequate measure for security of their networks under license security conditions among which it is mandated that the licensee shall induct only those network elements into his telecom network, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or international security standards. A Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) has been set up in a phased manner to automate the process of lawful interception and monitoring of mobile phones, landlines and the internet in the country. The phase related with Technology development and Pilot trials of the CMS have been completed. The deployment of technical equipment is under way in phased manner and 18 Regional Monitoring Centres (RMC) out of 21 RMC has been technically commissioned.
2.	Increase of rural tele-density from the current level of around 39 to 70 by the year 2017 and 100 by the year 2020.	The Government of India has taken several measures to bridge the digital divide and to provide impetus to rural ICT. As per TRAI, Rural tele-density has reached 57.73 per hundred subscribers as on 30.6.2017. Government has approved a scheme to install mobile towers in 2199 locations identified in areas affected by the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) at an estimated Cost of about Rs.3046 crores. The project is being funded from USOF and will be executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). A scheme to extend financial support from USO Fund for provisioning of mobile communication services in inhabited uncovered villages of the country is ongoing. Providing mobile connectivity to uncovered Villages in the North East Region will be given priority. In its endeavour to improve the telecom connectivity in the North Eastern Region, Department of Telecom has decided to implement a comprehensive telecom plan for the North-East, based on the recommendations given by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

3.	Provide 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.	The total number of broadband subscribers has already reached 431.21 million on 30.6.2017. Further,BharatNetproject is planned to create network infrastructure for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The project will be implemented in three phases. Phase I is being implemented to connect 1,00,000 GPs. As on 17.12.2017, optical fibre cable laid 2,56,582Kms. in 1,12,464GPs and broadband connectivity provided in 87,836GPs. Non-discriminatory access will be provided to all the telecom service providers under BharatNet.BharatNet project will give a further boost to the penetration of broadband in rural areas. A total of 1893.75 MHz spectrum has been allotted to the service providers for IMT through auction through the auctions held from the year 2012 to 2016 which will help in prolification of wireless broadband through various technologies like 3G, 4G, Wi-max etc.
4.	Enable citizens to participate in and contribute to e-governance in key sectors like health, education, skill development, employment, governance, banking etc. to ensure equitable and inclusive growth.	The Govt has created a MyGov platform to enable citizens to participate in governance process.MyGov is an innovative platform to build a partnership between Citizens and Government with the help of technology for growth and development of India.
5.	Provide 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.	Bharat Net earlier known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)) is being implemented to provide minimum 100 MBps Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.5 lakh) in the country by using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media. The Project is planned to be implemented in three phases. Under first phase of the project, 1 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) are to be connected by laying underground OFC. As of now approximately 87,836GPs under phase 1 have already been lit and the work for balance is in progress.Under second phase, connectivity will be provided to remaining 1.5 lakh GPs in the country using an optimal mix of underground fibre, fibre over power lines, radio and satellite media, by March, 2019.

6.	Promote innovation, indigenous R&D and manufacturing to serve domestic and global markets, by increasing skills and competencies.	The Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Council, comprising experts from industry, academia, R&D institutions and Government was set up to advise the Government on policy directions necessary to promote NTP objectives. Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council has been set up to promote exports of telecom equipment and participation in domestic and international exhibitions. With the objective of creating an eco-system for sustainable growth of telecom sector in the country, eight Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCOEs) has been set up in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) bringing together Academic Institutions, Telecom Industry and Government at premier educational institutions like IITs, IIM and IISC.
7.	Create a corpus to promote indigenous R&D, IPR creation, entrepreneurship, manufacturing, commercialisation and deployment of state-of-the-art telecom products and services during the 12th five year plan period.	In order to create an ecosystem for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, MeitY has launched Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) Scheme for development of manufacturing clusters in the country and Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme for providing subsidy up to 25% for setting up manufacturing facility or expansion of electronics products.
8.	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 to the extent of 60% and 80% with a minimum value addition of 45% and 65% by the year 2017 and 2020 respectively.	A vibrant ecosystem of innovation, research and development with active industry involvement is essential for a thriving electronics industry. It is with this objective that an EDF (Electronic Development Fund) has been set up as a Fund of Funds to participate in Daughter Funds which in turn will provide risk capital to companies developing new technologies in the area of electronics, nano-electronics and Information Technology (IT). The policy provides a framework where the decision to support R&D is based on market conditions and through industry professionals well versed with industry requirements. Government has formally launched EDF on 15th February, 2016. 12 daughter funds have been approved for in-principal commitment of Rs. 510 Crore from EDF and 4 daughter funds are approved for final commitment of Rs. 179 Crore from EDF. Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India(TSDSI) is now one of the partners in 3GPP and has signed MOUs with other regional Standard Development Organizations to

		promote R&D, IPRs in global standards.
9.	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.	Department of Telecommunications notified 23 telecom products for preferential market access in government procurements. The notification was made applicable to procurements by all the Ministries or Departments (except the Ministry of Defence), and the agencies under their administrative control and for all Government funded telecom projects. The NOFN project (now **BharatNet)** and Left Wing Extremist (LWE) projects of USOF, and other Government funded are covered under PMA Policy of the Government.
10.	Develop and establish standards to meet national requirements, generate IPRs, and participate in international standardization bodies to contribute in formulation of global standards, thereby making India a leading nation in the area of international telecom. This will be supported by establishing appropriate linkages with industry, R&D institutions, academia, telecom service providers and users.	For the development of standards for telecom especially suited to Indian environment and incorporation of the same in the international standards, Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) – an industry led autonomous 'not for profit' Standards Development Organization for telecom products and services has been set up.
11.	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.	To simplify the licensing regime Unified License Regime has been put in place. Under the UL regime spectrum has been delinked from the license. UL provides for the single license to provide all services in all the service areas
12.	Strive to create One Nation - One License across services and service areas.	Delinking of Network Service Operators and Service Delivery Operators has been done and a Virtual Network Operators (VNO) regime has been put in place on 31st May, 2016.
13.	Achieve One Nation - Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards One Nation - Free Roaming.	Nation-wide Mobile Number Portability facility has been implemented so that the users can retain their mobile number while shifting from one service area to another, irrespective of the service provider. For free roaming, TRAI has reduced ceiling charges and mandated one tariff plan for each operator for free incoming roaming.

14.	Reposition the mobile phone from a mere communication device to an instrument of empowerment that combines communication with proof of identity, fully secure financial and other transaction capability, multi-lingual services and a whole range of other capabilities that ride on them and transcend the literacy barrier.	Mobile phones including Smart Phones are increasingly being used to provide various Information Communication Technology (ICT) services. Financial and other transactions are being done by utilizing Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), OTP based authentication, app based services. Further, MobilePhones are supporting multi-lingual capabilities. Technology has improved tremendously which has made mobile phones as fully empowered devices capable of providing all sort of services and transcending the class and literacy barriers.
15.	Encourage development of mobile phones based on open platform standards.	
16.	Deliver high quality seamless voice, data, multimedia and broadcasting services on converged networks for enhanced service delivery to provide superior experience to users	Internet service enables to provide voice data, multimedia and broadcasting services through a converged platform for service delivery and enhanced user experience such as IPTV.
17.	Put in place a simplified Merger & Acquisition regime in telecom service sector while ensuring adequate competition.	To streamline and simplify mergers and acquisitions in the telecom sector, Merger and Acquisition (M&A) Policy for telecom Licensee companies have been issued.
18.	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.	375 MHz spectrum has been allocated for IMT services as on 30th September 2017. A total of 1893.75 MHz spectrum has been allotted to the service providers for IMT through auction through the auctions held from the year 2012 to 2016.
19.	Promote efficient use of spectrum with provision of regular audit of spectrum usage	That the spectrum is efficiently used is the need of the service provider as more efficient usage of the spectrum will lead to greater economic gains to the service provider. The matter of spectrum Audit is under consideration of the Government.
20.	De-licensing additional frequency bands for public use.	After the release of the NTP-2012, frequency bands of 302 to 351 kHz, 36 to 38 MHz, 433 to 434.79 MHz, 76 to 77 GHz have also been delicensed for the purpose of usage of very low power Radio Frequency devices.
21.	Recognize telecom as Infrastructure Sector to realize true potential of ICT for development.	Telecom is now recognized as an Infrastructure Sector.

22.	Address the Right of Way (RoW) issues in setting up of telecom infrastructure	In order to mitigate the problems being faced by the Telecom Service Providers in getting Right of Way permission, Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 15th November, 2016 for laying underground and overground infrastructure for grant of right of way permission by simplifying the application process for facilitating smooth coordination between the service providers and the Central/State Governments/ local bodies.
23.	Mandate an ecosystem to ensure setting up of a common platform for interconnection of various networks for providing non-exclusive and non-discriminatory access.	In order to utilise resources efficiently, interconnection at Internet Protocol (IP level) has been enabled.
24.	Strengthen the framework to address the environmental and health related concerns pertaining to the telecom sector.	Norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) have been made ten times more stringent and reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). A nation-wide Awareness Programme on EMF Emissions & Telecom Towers to build a direct bridge of engagement between different stakeholders and to fill the information gap with scientific evidence has been initiated. Detailed information on EMF related issues and steps taken by Government of India in this regard are available on DoT website www.dot.gov.in in section "A Journey for EMF". Department of Telecom (DoT), has launched Tarang Sanchar, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances, with a view to generate confidence and conviction with regard to safety and harmlessness from mobile towers, clearing any myths and misconceptions. The portal can be accessed at www.tarangsanchar.gov.in.The EMF Portal provides a public interface where an easy map-based search feature has been provided for viewing the mobile towers in vicinity of any locality. By click of a button, information on EMF compliance status of mobile towers can be accessed. Detailed information about any tower site, if requested, will be sent on email to

		the users.
		DoT has issued an informative guide on 'Mobile Communications-Radio Waves and Safety' and the same is available on DoT website. The document covers basic introduction to radio waves, various terminologies, and clarification of various myths regarding deployment, use of Radio waves / Safety Standards and frequently asked questions relating to Mobile phones & Human health.
25.	Enhanced and continued adoption of green policy in telecom and incentivise use of renewable energy sources for sustainability.	DOT has issued broad directions in 2012 for greening of the telecom sector and to achieve the desired reduction in carbon emission using Renewable Energy Technology (RET) solutions and energy efficient equipment which inter-alia, includes - (i) The total power consumption of each Base Transceiver Station (BTS) should not exceed 500W by the year 2020. (ii) Service providers should evolve a 'Carbon Credit Policy' in line with the carbon credit norms. (iii) Service providers to aim to Carbon emission reduction targets for the mobile network at 17% by the year 2018-2019.
26.	Protect consumer interest by promoting informed consent, transparency and accountability in quality of service, tariff, usage etc.	Consumer interest is of paramount concern of the Government and various guidelines are being issued to promote transparency and accountability. The quality of service and tariff fall within the domain of TRAI.
27.	Strengthen the grievance redressal mechanisms to provide timely and effective resolution.	The grievance redressal mechanism is now fully computerized wherein general public can raise their grievances regarding shortcoming of telecom services faced by them. The grievance can be submitted through telephone/fax/email/physical letter/online through PG portal of Government of India. The complainants are enabled to see the movement of the processing of complaint online through PG portal. Thus, it is ensured that grievance redressal mechanism is fully transparent and effective.
28.	Strengthen the institutional framework to enhance the pace of human capital formation and capacity building by assessing and addressing educational and	DoT has prepared Telecom Sector Skill Plan in 2016 which states that the telecom sector manpower requirement of 40.05 lakhs in 2016-17 would get increased to 87.80 lakhs by 2021-2022, creating need for additional telecom

		manpower requirement of 47.75 lakhs.
	training needs of the sector.	For sustainable growth of telecom sector in the country, eight Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCOEs) has been set up in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) bringing together Academic Institutions, Telecom Industry and Government at premier educational institutions like IITs, IIM and IISC. The Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), a non-profit organisation constituted jointly by COAI, ICA and TCOE in January, 2013 has empanelled 157 training partners across the country and enrolled 2, 12,165 persons for training so far. TSSC has been entrusted with the job of identifying 5-10 ITIs, Telecom training courses, trainers etc. Once ITIs, Telecom training courses, trainers are finalised, the service providers would be requested to adapt these ITIs to train rural workforce to cater to their own needs.
29.	Encourage recognition and creation of synergistic alliance of public sector and other organisations of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). This should be achieved through appropriate policy interventions and support for optimum utilisation of their resources and strengths in building a robust and secure telecom and information infrastructure.	A comprehensive strategic plan which addresses issues like effective utilization of human resources, settlement of legal issues, optimum utilization of vacant spaces in lands and buildings, promoting Make in India, pooling of resources to address emerging opportunities in the country and inter organizational operational synergies has been prepared.
30.	Evolve a policy framework for financing the sector consistent with long term sustainability.	There is a proposal for creation of Telecom Finance Corporation for financing the telecom sector. Draft Report in this regard is under consideration.
31.	Put in place appropriate fiscal and financial incentives required for indigenous manufacturers of telecom products and R&D institutions.	Same as in point number 7 & 8.
32.	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.	National IPv6 Deployment Roadmap version-II' containing IPv6 transition guidelines/timelines was released by DoT to facilitate IPv6 transition in a phased and time bound manner. DoT has issued guidelines to various Central Ministries /Departments/States/UTs for transition to IPv6 and to ensure that all new ICT equipment are IPv6 ready.

| 33. | Strengthen the institutional, legal, and regulatory framework and re-engineer processes to bring in more efficiency, timely decision making and transparency. | To bring in uniformity, transparency and timely disposal of applications for grant of Right of Way permission by various State Governments/Local Bodies, Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 has been formulated. Aadhaar based e-KYC for new subscribers which has been launched in September, 2016. Under this process, the subscriber can authenticate his biometrics at the point of sale and obtain a new activated SIM card within 30 minutes, which otherwise takes almost a day and involves a lot of paper work. Wireless Operators License has also been abolished, which will ensure that new mobile towers are put in operation without any loss of time. |

State/UT-wise Status of Villages Connected with the Telecom Network

S.N	Name of the State/UT	Number of Covered Villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh including Telangana	22,171
2.	Assam	22,487
3.	Bihar	36,790
4.	Jharkhand	24,610
5.	NCT of Delhi	103
6.	Gujarat	16,568
7.	Dadar& Nagar Haveli	60
8.	Daman & Diu	18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15,466
10.	Haryana	6640
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,877
12.	Karnataka	27,397
13.	Kerala	1,017
14.	Lakshadweep	10
15.	Maharashtra	36,249
16.	Goa	255
17.	Madhya Pradesh	46,033
18.	Chhattisgarh	16,195
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,372
20.	Manipur	1,905
21.	Meghalaya	4,070
22.	Mizoram	446
23.	Nagaland	1,263
24.	Tripura	861
25.	Odisha	37,615
26.	Punjab	12,077
27.	Rajasthan	42,494
28.	Tamil Nadu	14,936
29.	Puducherry	90
30.	Uttar Pradesh	97,654
31.	Uttarakhand	13,869
32.	West Bengal	37,113
33.	Sikkim	402
34.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	206
	TOTAL	**5,45,319**