GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6092
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH APRIL, 2018

NEW TELECOM POLICY

†6092. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   the salient features of the National Telecommunication Policy 2018 issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b)   whether the Government proposes to implement the said policy and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c)   the socio-economic benefits that are likely to be accrued to the lower strata of the society in view of the linking of rural areas with internet?

ANSWER

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

(a)   Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted inputs to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) regarding National Telecom Policy – 2018 (NTP-2018). The salient features of TRAI inputs on Vision, Mission and Objectives of NTP-2018 are at **Annexure.**

(b)   The DoT has initiated the process to formulate NTP-2018. As part of its consultation process, the DoT had sought inputs from TRAI, academia and other stakeholders, besides setting up of theme based working groups in DoT. The policy inputs of TRAI, inputs from academia and other stakeholders and recommendations of the DoT working groups are under consideration with the Government and will be suitably considered in the preparation of NTP-2018, which is in progress and is likely to be completed soon.

(c)   The growth of data communication services is an enabler in enhancing the socio-economic conditions in rural and remote areas. The internet has proven to be a facilitator to access opportunities and to deliver services in various sectors including education, health, rural development, e-governance, among others. Considering the utility of internet access, relevant content and services, their delivery at affordable prices to the people of all sections of society would be a game changer in their lives - bringing transformation in the delivery, access and utilization of services and opportunities. Bridging the digital divide will go a long way in bridging the economic divide, thus enabling growth and development, bringing socio-economic benefits.

TRAI's INPUTS ON NATIONAL TELECOM POLICY-2018 REGARDING VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

To develop a competitive, sustainable, and investor-friendly Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) market for rollout of state-of-the-art ubiquitous digital communication infrastructure to provide resilient, reliable, affordable, and consumer friendly products and services to meet local as well as global needs; and in the process, transform India's knowledge economy, support inclusive development, foster innovation, and stimulate job creation.

Mission

1. To fulfil the information and communication needs of the individuals including persons with disabilities, governments, enterprises, and industries with high quality of experience at affordable prices on a sustainable basis;
2. To facilitate growth of state-of-the-art, secure, and energy-efficient digital communication infrastructure for delivering ubiquitous, resilient, reliable and ultra-high speed connectivity with extremely low latency for objects, machines, and devices;
3. To stimulate the environment for innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities making India a global centre for research and development, patent-creation, and standardization in Information and Communication Technologies and services;
4. To develop indigenous technologies, equipments, platforms, and applications ecosystem for providing digital services to local and global markets;
5. To establish India as a global hub for cloud computing, content hosting and delivery, and data communication systems and services in a net-neutral environment;

6. To protect consumers' interests by increasing awareness and putting in place an effective grievance redressal mechanism, improving quality of experience, ensuring network, communication and data security, encouraging adoption of environment and safety standards for ICT, and modernizing public safety and emergency communications networks;

7. To attract investments by enhancing ease of doing business through simplification of licensing and regulatory frameworks, rationalization of taxes, levies and related compliances, and facilitating availability of resources including spectrum.

Objectives

1. To enable access at affordable prices for wireless broadband services, including through satellite to 90% population by 2022;
2. To ensure availability of bandwidth on demand through wireline, including cable TV and optical fibre networks to 30% households by 2020 and 50% households by 2022;
3. To provide at least 1 Gbps data connectivity to all Gram Panchayats to enable wireless broadband services to inhabitants by 2022;
4. To achieve 900 million broadband subscriptions supporting download speed of 2 Mbps, out of that at-least 150 million broadband subscriptions supporting download speed of 20 Mbps and 25 million at a download speed of 50 Mbps by 2022;
5. To achieve 'unique mobile subscriber density' of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022 by enhancing mobile network coverage to 95% of inhabitants by 2020 and 100% by 2022;
6. To deploy 2 million public WLAN including Wi-Fi hotspots in the country by 2020 and 5 million by 2022;
7. To leapfrog India into the top-50 nations in the ICT Development Index (IDI), released by ITU every year, by 2022;
8. To enable access for connecting to 1 billion IoT/ M2M sensors/ devices by 2020 and 5 billion by 2022;
9. To attract an investment equivalent to USD 60 billion in communication sector by 2020 and USD 100 billion by 2022;
10. To become net positive in international trade of communication systems and services by 2022;
11. To create 2 million additional jobs in ICT sector by 2022;
12. To put in place an ombudsman based consumer grievance redressal mechanism by end of 2018;
13. To establish online centralised platform for provision of Right of Way (RoW) permissions for single window clearance by 2019;
14. To achieve backhaul connectivity on optical fibre for at least 60% base stations by 2022;
15. To put in place an online platform for all Government to Business (G2B) activities including spectrum and license related information, applications, clearances, compliances, and payments by 2019;
16. To simplify licensing and regulatory frameworks, and rationalize taxes, levies and related compliances by 2019;
17. To put in place a flexible, robust data protection regime powered by a strong encryption policy by 2019;
18. To establish a policy framework for facilitating setting up of data centres by 2019.

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