

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2018**

NEW ERA OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

3529. SHRI R. PARTHIPAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any concrete action plan/scheme to usher India into a new era of digital communications; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government 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) & (b) The Government has released the draft National Digital Communications Policy – 2018 (NDCP-2018) on 1st May, 2018 for public consultations. The process of finalizing the NDCP – 2018 is currently in progress within the Department. The Policy aims to fulfil the information and communication needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient, secure and affordable Digital Communications Infrastructure and Services; and in the process, support India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society. The draft policy also recognizes the importance of emerging technologies and has laid down several strategies to achieve its overall objectives. The missions, goals and key strategies of the draft policy are at **Annexure**.

Further, BharatNet project, which aims to connect 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) is targeted to be completed by March 2019 providing high speed broadband connectivity to these GPs. Also as last mile connectivity, on an average five Access Points in each GP shall be provided, wherein, three Access Points shall be setup in Government Institutions at GP level and two for public use. This project is targeted to be completed by June, 2019.

Missions & Goals of Draft National Digital Communications Policy-2018

1. Connect India: Creating a Robust Digital Communication Infrastructure

2022 Goals:

- a. Provide Universal broadband coverage at 50Mbps to every citizen
- b. Provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022
- c. Enable 100 Mbps broadband on demand to all key development institutions; including all educational institutions
- d. Enable fixed line broadband access to 50% of households
- e. Achieve ‘unique mobile subscriber density’ of 55 by 2020 and 65 by 2022
- f. Enable deployment of public Wi-Fi Hotspots; to reach 5 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2022
- g. Ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas

2. Propel India: Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation, Indigenous Manufacturing and IPR Generation

2022 Goals:

- a. Attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the Digital Communications Sector
- b. Increase India’s contribution to Global Value Chains
- c. Creation of innovation led Start-ups in Digital Communications sector
- d. Creation of Globally recognized Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in India
- e. Development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) in the field of digital communication technologies
- f. Train/ Re-skill 1 Million manpower for building New Age Skills
- g. Expand Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem to 5 Billion connected devices
- h. Accelerate transition to Industry 4.0

3. Secure India: Ensuring Digital Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications

2022 Goals:

- a. Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India’s effective participation in the global digital economy
- b. Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies
- c. Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks
- d. Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards
- e. Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances
- f. Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services
