

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.316
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JANUARY, 2019**

NEW TELECOM POLICY

*316. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the New Telecom Policy along with the benefits arising for the rural masses from the implementation of the said policy;
- (b) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to accord special concession under the said policy to States with poor network connectivity due to topographical or similar constraints for setting up of broadband infrastructure and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the proposed areas for the 'NagarNet' and 'JanWi-Fi' in the State of Himanchal Pradesh, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *316 FOR 2ND JANUARY, 2019 ON “NEW TELECOM POLICY”.

(a) & (b) The key objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) - 2018 are provisioning of broadband for all; creating 4 million additional jobs in the digital communications sector; enhancing the contribution of the digital communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from approximately 6% in 2017; propelling India to the top 50 nations in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Index of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) from 134 in 2017; enhancing India's contribution to global value chains; and ensuring digital sovereignty. These objectives are targeted to be achieved by 2022.

The policy, inter-alia, aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen; provide 1 Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats of India by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022; ensure connectivity to all uncovered areas; attract investments of USD 100 Billion in the digital communications sector; train 1 million manpower for building new age skills; expand Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices; 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; and enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

(c) The policy envisages channelizing the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for ensuring connectivity for all uncovered areas in the North Eastern States, Himalayan region, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Aspirational Districts, Islands and Border Areas.

(d) Establishing 1 million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas and 2 million Wi-Fi Hotspots in rural areas of the country including in the State of Himachal Pradesh have been envisaged under the Nagarnet and JanWiFi initiatives in the Policy.
