

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 239
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2018**

MEETING WITH TELECOM OPERATORS

239. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government held discussions with telecom operators on worsening call drop situation in the month of November, 2018 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also true that a similar meeting was held in the month of January, 2018 on the same issue and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the operators had informed the Government that they will be investing more than Rs. 74,000 crore in financial year 2019 on networks including telecom towers and base transceiver station; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the private operators 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) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has been interacting with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and reviewing the progress of their action-plans for addressing call drops in their mobile networks on a continuous basis. DoT has recently interacted with concerned TSPs in October, 2018 to lay emphasis on developing technological solutions by TSPs to monitor & address call drops in their mobile networks.

(b) Yes, DoT has earlier interacted with TSPs in January, 2018 for an interactive review on call-drop issue and action-plans thereof. TSPs were asked to take effective steps to resolve problems of call-drops in a time-bound manner.

(c) & (d) TSPs have informed DoT that they have planned to invest more than Rupees 74,000/- Crore for telecom networks during the financial year 2018-19. TSPs have been making substantial investments in telecom networks. As a result thereof, about 9.74 lakh additional Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) for 2G/3G/4G-LTE services have been added by TSPs since July, 2015 across the country. The number of BTS installed have been significantly increased from about 7.94 lakh in March 2014 to about 20.07 lakh in November 2018.

TSPs have also informed DoT that they have been continuously augmenting the mobile networks across the country to keep-up with increasing usage of mobile networks both for voice & data services. Further, they have started implementing latest technical solutions & tool-sets such as Geo-location Analysis, Self Organising Networks (S.O.N.), Remote Electrical Antenna Tilt (RET) etc. for monitoring and addressing the identified issues in near real-time.
