

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 797
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH JUNE, 2019**

UPGRADATION OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

†797. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) need to focus on upgradation of their information technology and connectivity network infrastructure as well as providing high quality, reliable and cheaper internet data;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed accountability in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) Network upgradation including upgradation of information technology and connectivity network infrastructure is a continuous and ongoing process for each and every Telecom Service Provider(TSP) based on its techno commercial considerations and changing traffic volumes, customer needs and market competition etc. The mobile internet data prices being offered by the TSPs in the country are one of the cheapest in the world.

In order to further facilitate the TSPs to inter-alia provide high quality, reliable and cheaper internet data, Department of Telecommunications has initiated a series of policy initiatives and development programs as under :-

- (i) making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz across different bands (700, 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300 and 2500 MHz bands) in 2016.

- (ii) allowing spectrum sharing, trading and liberalisation of administratively allocated spectrum as per guidelines.
- (iii) permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilisation efficiency.
- (iv) permitting Internet Protocol (IP) based interconnections between TSPs in addition to the prevailing arrangements.
- (v) notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 in November 2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers).
- (vi) periodic review of expansion of mobile networks and related improvements carried out by TSPs.

(c) & (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regularly monitors the performance of the services provided by the Telecom Service Providers and appropriate actions, including imposition of financial disincentives, are taken by TRAI from time to time.
