

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2481  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**CITIES IDENTIFIED FOR 5G NETWORK**

**2481. SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has the proposal to launch 5th Generation (5G) network in the country in the year 2023;
- (b) if so, the details of the cities and the States identified for the same;
- (c) whether the BSNL 4G network will cover all the block headquarters during 2023, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have started providing 5G services in the country from 01.10.2022 onwards and as of 26.11.2022, 5G services have started in 50 towns distributed over 14 States/UTs.

As per the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) dated 15-06-2022 for auction of spectrum and the license conditions, the rollout obligations are required to be met over a period of five years, in a phased manner, from the date of allocation of spectrum. Further expansion of mobile networks beyond the mandatory rollout obligations, depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

(c) & (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that they are providing 4G services on limited scale at few locations on existing spectrum. Further, efforts of the Government and Indian industry members have paved the way for development of indigenous 4G stack. The Proof of Concept (PoC) testing of the indigenous 4G technology stack has been carried out by BSNL. BSNL has planned for procurement of one lakh IDDM (Indian Designed, Developed and Manufactured) eNodeB to provide 4G services under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' mission.

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