

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3506
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND MARCH, 2023**

RIGHT OF WAY PERMISSIONS

3506. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telecom industry has complained that getting right of way permissions and charging of exorbitant rates by various local bodies of cities are two reasons that hamper the effective laying of optic fibres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to redress this issue such as constitution of a standard rate;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the lack of fiberized base tower stations will affect the scaling up of 5G and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the details of the steps taken by the Government to redress this and aid the effective spread of fiberized base tower stations?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Associations of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) / Infrastructure Providers (IPs) have highlighted that getting right of way permissions and charging of exorbitant rates by various Local Bodies of cities hampers the effective laying of optic fibres.
- (c) & (d) Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has notified Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 (ITRoW Rules) and its amendments (2021, 2022) for standardisation of rates for Overground and underground telecom infrastructure and DoT regularly follows up with States / UTs / Central Ministries so that they may adopt the Central Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 and amendment thereof.

Also, GatiShakti Sanchar Portal - a Centralised RoW portal, launched on 14th May 2022, facilitates online application processing, clearance and dashboard for top level monitoring. The GatiShakti Sanchar portal has onboarded / integrated for all 36 States /UTs to accept, process and approve Right of Way (RoW) applications for both Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) and Towers through single interface. The portal is also integrated with central ministries viz. Ministry of Railways,

Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Ministry of Defence. The portal enables applicants like Telecom Service Provider / Infrastructure Provider (TSP/IP) to apply for RoW approvals to various agencies of State/UT Governments, local bodies and Ministries at one common/ single portal. Dashboard has been enabled on the portal to view the State/ district wise status of applications, pendency, approvals, etc. This has brought Ease of Doing Business in RoW application approvals.

(e) & (f) The higher bandwidth for 5G user connections can be provided if backhaul connectivity to Base Transceiver Station (BTS) is of sufficient higher bandwidth. Fiberization of BTS is the media to achieve higher bandwidth.

DoT has been working with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for connecting the unfiberized BTSs with the nearest available OFC. As a result, the % of BTS which have been fiberized has increased from 34.29% in December-2021 to 37.08% in December-2022.
