

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4714
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2023**

FIBERISED TOWERS

4714. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that currently only 33% of the towers in India are fiberised as compared to 65% to 70% in South Korea and 80% to 90% in the U.S., Japan and China and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in mind that India needs at least 16 times more fibre to transition into 5G?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As on 31st Dec 2022, 37.08% i.e. 8,84,237 of 23,84,451 of base transceiver station (BTS) are fiberized.
- (b) The Government has taken following Steps to facilitate more fiber:
- (i) The GatiShakti Sanchar portal (Centralized Right of Way 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 three central ministries, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways 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. A dashboard has been enabled on the portal to view the State/ district wise status of applications, pendency, approvals etc. for monitoring at top level to ensure quick approvals happen.
- (ii) To facilitate faster and easier deployment of telecom infrastructure, Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 on 17th August 2022. These amendments pave the way for deployment of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on existing street infrastructure and also rationalize the fees and charges paid by the Telecom Licensees for the RoW permissions.
