

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4790  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**CITIES UNDER 5G SERVICES**

4790. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:  
DR. AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of cities in India that are covered under 5G services as on February 2023;
- (b) the number of cities/districts in North East India, Kasargod, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh where this service has been launched;
- (c) the tentative date by which all districts including Srikakulam, are expected to be connected with 5G services;
- (d) the details of the proposed strategy for nationwide 5G connectivity deployment;
- (e) the details of the estimated cost of 5G coverage for the entire nation;
- (f) whether 5G technology increases the risk of hacking due to lack of encryption during the connection process, making devices that use 5G technology easier targets for cyber attacks; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken by the Government is taking to address this security concern?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) At the end of February 2023, 5G services had been started in 329 cities distributed across all Licensed Service Areas (LSAs).
- (b) 5G services have been started in 12 cities of North-East, 31 cities of Kerala and 43 cities of Andhra Pradesh.
- (c) to (e) 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 and the cost involved depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).
- (f) & (g) Adequate encryption is available in 5G during the connection process. 3GPP has defined separate security architecture features and mechanisms for 5G system and 5G core including security procedures to be performed within the 5G system including core and radio part which also includes end to end encryption. Further, as per the license conditions, the licensee is completely and totally responsible for the security of its network.

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