

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

**LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1268
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

REFORMS IN TELECOM SECTOR

1268. SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN:
SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is considering more reforms in telecom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government is inviting recommendations from the industry on various issues, including improving quality of services, bridging digital gap and ensuring security of the telecom networks;
- (d) whether it is also true that while the spread of telecom service had truly increased, the quality of services remained an issue;
- (e) if so the steps proposed to improve the quality of telecom services;
- (f) whether the investors in telecom sector are looking for second set of reforms;
- (g) if so, the time by which the second set of reforms is going to be brought; and
- (h) whether there is any plan by the Government to bring down the price of 5G spectrum and if so, the details including the status of 5G auction thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Government brings required reforms in the telecom sector from time to time.
- (c) Regular interactions are being carried out with industry, operators and their associations on various issues, including improving quality of services, bridging digital gap and ensuring security of the telecom networks.

(d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been monitoring the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) against the benchmarks, for various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, by way of Quality of Service regulations, issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). TSPs are, in general, meeting most of the QoS parameters set by the TRAI.

(e) To provide quality telecom services across the country, Government is implementing various schemes/projects under Universal Service Obligation Fund namely (i) Left Wing Extremism (Phase-I &II) projects; (ii) Aspirational Districts scheme; (iii) Commissioning of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable connectivity from Chennai to Andaman & Nicobar Islands; (iv) Scheme for connecting submarine Optical Fibre Cable from Kochi to Lakshadweep Islands; (v) BharatNet (Phase-I &II) projects; (vi) Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region; and (vii) Provision of 4G mobile coverage in uncovered villages and seamless 4G mobile coverage of National Highway (NH - 223) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc. Government has also taken several policy initiatives to facilitate infrastructure growth for delivery of quality services. These include permitting trading/sharing/liberalisation of spectrum, sharing of passive & active infrastructure.

(f) & (g) Reforms in telecom sector is an ongoing process.

(h) 5G spectrum auctions are likely in 2022. TRAI gives recommendations on various terms and conditions for auction of spectrum, which, inter-alia, include reserve price of spectrum in various frequency bands identified for the International Mobile Telecommunications, including 5G.
