

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

**LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1275
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

INTERNET SPEED

1275. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India ranks 122 out of 141 in the global mobile internet speed rankings as per the report of Ookla's Speedtest Global Index in October, 2021 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether efforts are being made by the Government to improve the internet speed and its quality in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Certain organisations publish reports regarding global mobile internet speeds. However such reports have not been validated.

In order to facilitate expansion of mobile telecommunication services in the country, the Department of Telecommunications has taken various policy initiatives including: -

- i. making available sufficient spectrum for mobile services including auction of 965 MHz and 856 MHz across different bands in year 2016 and 2021 respectively
- ii. harmonization of spectrum and making the spectrum contiguous for various operators which increased the spectral efficiency and enabled them to provide services on 4G technology
- iii. allowing spectrum sharing and trading
- iv. permitting sharing of active as well as passive infrastructure by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for achieving higher utilisation efficiency
- v. notification of Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 dated 15.11.2016 for regulating underground infrastructure (optical fibre) and over-ground infrastructure (mobile towers)

Further, in December 2019, the Government launched ‘National Broadband Mission’ with a vision to enable fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide for digital empowerment and inclusion, provide affordable and universal access of Broadband for all. The National Broadband Mission, inter-alia, aims to facilitate universal and equitable access to Broadband services for growth and development throughout the country, especially in rural and remote areas. The plan of action under the Mission include:

- i. All villages to have access to broadband;
- ii. Accelerate Fiberization;
- iii. Increasing tower density;
- iv. Increase fiberization of telecom towers;
- v. Easing of Right of Way (RoW) permissions in coordination with State/UTs and other central ministries.
