

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4152
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025**

TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEERING CENTRE

**4152. SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the new draft rules enhance security, interoperability and quality in India's telecom sector and the impact they have will on Maharashtra's growing digital and telecom infrastructure;
- (b) the role of the Telecommunication Engineering Centre and the National Centre for Communication Security in ensuring compliance with the updated standards, particularly in Maharashtra's telecom industry;
- (c) the manner in which the proposed digital portal streamlines compliance processes for telecom equipment stakeholders and the manner in which it will benefit telecom businesses and service providers in Maharashtra; and
- (d) the details of the exemptions available under the new rules for research, development, testing and personal use of telecom equipment and the manner in which they will support innovation and telecom advancements in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) The draft Telecommunications (Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025 has been proposed in suppression of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017. "Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2017" vide G.S.R. 1131(E) PART XI prescribes for Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE) and is already in force w.e.f. 01.10.2018.

It ensures that the telecommunication equipment used/connected to telecommunication network conform to all the prescribed standards including EMI/EMC, Safety, Security Requirements, interoperability and other technical Requirement. The main objectives are given below:

- (i) any telecommunication Equipment does not degrade performance of existing network to which it is connected;
- (ii) safety of the end-users;
- (iii) security of the Telecommunication Networks;
- (iv) protection of users and general public by ensuring that radio frequency emissions from equipment do not exceed prescribed standards;

- (v) telecommunication equipment complies with the relevant national and international regulatory standards and requirements.

A total of 211 telecommunication equipment have already been notified under MTCTE in six phases. Thus, the proposed rule shall continue to ensure the above objectives and strengthen the telecommunication network across the India including Maharashtra.

(b)

- (i). TEC is responsible for development of essential requirements(ER) for the various telecommunication equipment notified under these rules and issuance of certificate of conformity if the product comply to the essential requirements. Further, labs are being designated by TEC for carrying out the testing against the essential requirements(ER).
- (ii) National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS) is responsible for the development of security requirements for telecommunication equipment and ensuring compliance of the telecommunication equipment in respect of the prescribed security requirements.

(c) At present, the certification process is already end-to-end online. However, the proposed portal will further facilitate digital implementation of these rules including specifying the standards and conformity assessment procedures for compliance, fees and charges, notices of non-conformity, and any orders or directions under these rules by the Appropriate Authority. The portal will act as single window for the stakeholders and thereby enhance the Ease of doing Business in the country including Maharashtra.

(d) The provisions have been made in the draft rules which provides for exemption for telecommunication equipment imported into India for the purpose of carrying out research and development or demonstration or testing of samples in India, subject to compliance with relevant rules and procedures for such research, demonstration or testing. These exemptions will be useful especially for start-ups, R&D centres, academia and industries located in any part of the country including Maharashtra for fostering innovations. The draft rules also provide exemption for the telecommunication equipment brought into India by a person for personal use in India and that is not otherwise prohibited to be imported or used under the Act or any other law for the time being in force.
