GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST APRIL, 2026

IMPORTS OF TELECOM INSTRUMENTS

6197. DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:
SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:
ADV GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI:
MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Indian imports of telecom instruments have grown at an annual rate of 7% in the five-year period from 2019-20 to 2023-24, with almost 40% of 4G/5G equipment and antennas coming from China and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government under 'Make in India' for boosting the domestic manufacturing of telecom instruments;

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to control the high costs of testing, compliance and certification for MSMEs; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to incentivise investment for research, development, and intellectual property rights for telecom components and their local manufacturers?

ANSWER

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

(a) The imports under the principal commodity "telecom instruments" have increased from USD 13,333 million in 2019-20 to 17,010 million in 2023-24. Further, the import from China during the period has increased from USD 5,553 million to 6,371 million.

(b) The Government has undertaken several initiatives under 'Make in India' to boost domestic manufacturing of telecom instruments, including:

- The Government of India introduced Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order to give preference in Government procurement for goods and services which meet the minimum domestic value addition criteria thereby encouraging indigenous production.
- PLI Scheme for Telecom and Networking Products to promote domestic manufacturing of 33 telecom equipment categories including 4G/5G equipment, routers, switches, customer premise equipments etc.;
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (LSEM) to promote manufacturing of mobile phones and specified electronic components, leading to significant growth in production and exports; and

- Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) to strengthen the domestic component ecosystem and reduce import dependency.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to reduce the burden of testing, compliance and certification, particularly for MSMEs, including:

- Waiver of evaluation fee under the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunication Equipment (MTCTE);
- Enhancement of validity of MTCTE certificates from 5 years to 10 years; and
- Reimbursement of part of testing and certification charges for certain types of entities.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to incentivise investment for research, development, and intellectual property rights for telecom components and their local manufacturer, including:

- Launched the Digital Communication Innovation Square (DCIS) scheme in the year 2021-22 to provide financial assistance to Start-ups and MSMEs for research, development, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) creation and manufacturing, leading to development of market ready telecom products.
- Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) was launched on 1st October 2022 under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund) to support investment in research, development, and intellectual property rights in communication technologies. These schemes promote collaboration among academia, startups, research institutions and industry, and aim to foster innovation and development of indigenous telecom technologies in the country.

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