

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2917
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2023**

SPEEDY 5G ROLL-OUT

**2917. SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the changes made through legislation/subordinate legislation since 2014 for enabling speedy 5G roll-out in the country;
- (b) the details of procedural reforms on Wireless Licensing introduced in the Sector; and
- (c) the details of Satellite reforms introduced in the Sector?

ANSWER

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

- (a) India has seen one of the world's fastest roll-out of 5G services with more than 4 Lakh base stations installed within 14 months. This has been achieved through following policy measures:
 - (i) Series of financial reforms resulting in rationalization of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
 - (ii) Assignment of sufficient spectrum for mobile services through open & transparent auction.
 - (iii) Sharing, trading, leasing and surrender of spectrum has been permitted to promote its efficient use.
 - (iv) Simplification of Procedure for SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations) clearance. After implementation of this simplified procedure, average processing time for SACFA Clearance has significantly reduced to 5 days.
 - (v) Right of Way (RoW) Rules, 2016 have been notified under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. Pursuant to this, all States/ UTs have notified their RoW policies. This has resulted in streamlining of RoW permissions and expeditious clearances for installation of telecom infrastructure.
 - (vi) Procedure for application and time-bound permission for usage of street furniture for installation of small cells and telegraph line has been specified in Indian Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
 - (vii) PM GatiShakti Sanchar portal has been launched to expedite RoW permissions.
- (b) In addition to the above measures, following steps have been taken to reform the wireless processes:
 - (i) Harmonisation of spectrum from time to time to promote its efficient utilisation.

- (ii) Carrying out spectrum audit and periodic monitoring to assess the utilisation of spectrum and resolution of interference in various frequency bands.
- (iii) Re-farming of spectrum lying unused with existing wireless users is also carried out from time to time to improve spectrum utilisation and efficiency.
- (iv) Spectrum assignment process made online based on single scrutiny workflow.
- (v) Leasing of spectrum to Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN) licensees has been permitted.
- (vi) Process for import of telecom equipment has been simplified.

(c) The Government has taken multiple initiatives to promote orderly growth of satellite communications sector. Salient points of reforms carried out in this direction are as follows:

- (i) Per transponder NOCC (Network Operations Control Center) charges for Service Providers have been abolished.
- (ii) For establishing user-side VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminal), the requirement of WOL (Wireless Operating License) has been abolished.
- (iii) Facility of self-certification for antennas and online generation of automatic up-linking permission has been provided, instead of physical testing of satellite antennas.
- (iv) Guidelines for establishing satellite-based communication network have been issued.
- (v) 25% additional Royalty Charges for the remote VSAT terminals has been abolished to facilitate the Captive VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) network users.
- (vi) Charging for INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite) based Satellite phones being provided by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has been made on AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) basis.
- (vii) To promote Ease of doing business and Digital India, the endorsement of TV (Television) Channels under Teleport Licenses has been permitted on self-declaration basis.
- (viii) The restrictions on the number of TV Channels within minimum prescribed bandwidth used per TV Channel, has been done away with.
- (ix) Requirement to submit periodic deployment data for VSAT CUG (Closed User Group) Operators has been done away with.
